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# THE TIMES



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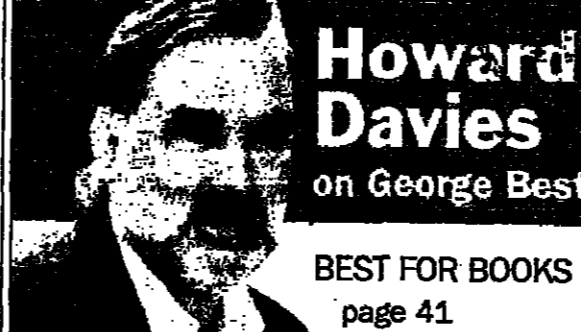
THURSDAY  
**30p**  
EVERY WEEKDAY



Starting today  
*Anatole Kaletsky*

A new Thursday column  
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**32 PAGES**  
OF NEW JOBS IN  
TWO SECTIONS



**Howard Davies**  
on George Best

BEST FOR BOOKS  
page 41



The wonder skin cream

Does it really work?  
page 21

THURSDAY  
EVERY WEEKDAY

## Taxpayers to get 'golden share' in new Channel rail link

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND JASON NISSÉ

JOHN PRESCOTT pledged last night to give taxpayers a "golden share" in the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link, but admitted that the beleaguered project will not be completed until 2007.

The Deputy Prime Minister hailed the "unique" financial package that would return to the public sector a share of future profits from the company running the Eurostar train service between London and Paris and Brussels. He announced that the Government will eventually take one third

of any profits. He also signalled that the Eurostar service, which runs from Waterloo in south London, will be extended to Heathrow airport, increasing the potential number of customers to the loss-making service.

However, his announcement that the Government would help kickstart the project by underwriting a £3.7 billion sale of bonds to investors was questioned in the City. Commentators suggested that the Government could also be exposed to financial risk if the project collapses.

Mr Prescott said that the Government would be taking a "golden

share" in the project, getting about 35 per cent of pre-tax profits made by the consortium behind the link after the year 2020. The Government would also receive at least 35 per cent of the proceeds of any sale of London & Continental Railways (LCR), the consortium behind the project, and a veto on any sale of LCR before 2011.

Also, Mr Prescott wants LCR to come up with proposals before the end of the year for regional Eurostar services to link northern and central parts of Britain with Paris and Brussels.

His announcement followed four months of intensive negotiations

after LCR ran into financial difficulties earlier this year. In January, Mr Prescott rejected the company's request for an extra £1.2 billion and asked LCR to come up with a new scheme.

Mr Prescott told the Commons yesterday that the 68-mile link, intended to take trains at 180mph to the Channel Tunnel, will be built in two stages, the first to begin this year.

He said the agreement had been "snatched from the ashes" of the collapse of the original project. "The link will be built all the way to St Pancras. Construction will begin this year. We will join the fast track

to Europe." The first phase, to be finished by 2003, would take trains on a high-speed line to Ebbsfleet, in north Kent, before joining existing lines to Waterloo.

The second and more expensive part of the project, involving tunnelling under the Thames and under parts of London, will begin in 2001, to be completed in 2007.

After Mr Prescott's insistence that the Eurostar train service must no longer be run by the same consortium as builds the link, he announced the successful bidder for the service that carries some six million passengers a year but loses about £180 million. The service will

be run by a consortium headed by National Express, the rail and bus group, and including British Airways and Belgian and French state railways. A key part of the consortium's proposals, which helped it to defeat a rival bid by Richard Branson's Virgin group, is the plan to run trains from Heathrow to Brussels and Paris, probably from 2001.

The move is designed to increase the number of potential customers by one third by making train travel into Europe attractive to travellers throughout southern and central England, who can reach Heathrow quicker than Waterloo. Eventually,

under, plans to link Heathrow with the rail network, the consortium hopes to link the airport to the north of England and Scotland.

Railtrack shares rose to a record high of £13.64 ahead of Mr Prescott's announcement, before closing at £13.10, a rise of 41p on the day.

The shares have more than doubled since privatisation last year, defying City warnings that the company would be shunned by investors.

Leading article, page 23  
Shares hit record, page 27  
Commentary, page 29

## 100 killed as express train hits bridge

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MORE THAN a hundred people were killed in Germany's worst rail disaster for half a century yesterday when a high-speed train was derailed, bringing an overhead road bridge crashing down onto its rear carriages.

Another 200 were seriously injured in the accident at Eschede in northern Germany, and the death toll was expected to rise as rescuers worked all night to free people from the wreckage. At least two classes of schoolchildren were among those trapped.

The ICE (Inter City Express) train had been travelling from Munich to Hamburg at 125 mph when it crashed at 11 am. A car is thought to have fallen from the bridge on to the tracks and into the path of the train. Twelve of its 14 coaches were derailed and four overturned as they crashed into the bridge and demolished it.

Six coachloads of slightly injured people were taken to their destinations, while German Army transport planes and rescue helicopters took the seriously wounded to hospital. British Army doctors from the base at nearby Celle joined the rescue teams, and the 7th Armoured Brigade in Hohnhe 30 miles away also offered help.

Eight hours after the crash, rescuers said that they had counted more than a hundred bodies and the death toll was thought likely to climb once a heavy-duty crane had lifted the bulk of the bridge from the crushed carriages. Some survivors were still being found in the most damaged parts of the train, however, and Hans-

Jürgen Frohns of German Railways said: "We have just discovered a young girl alive, alone among a group of five or six bodies."

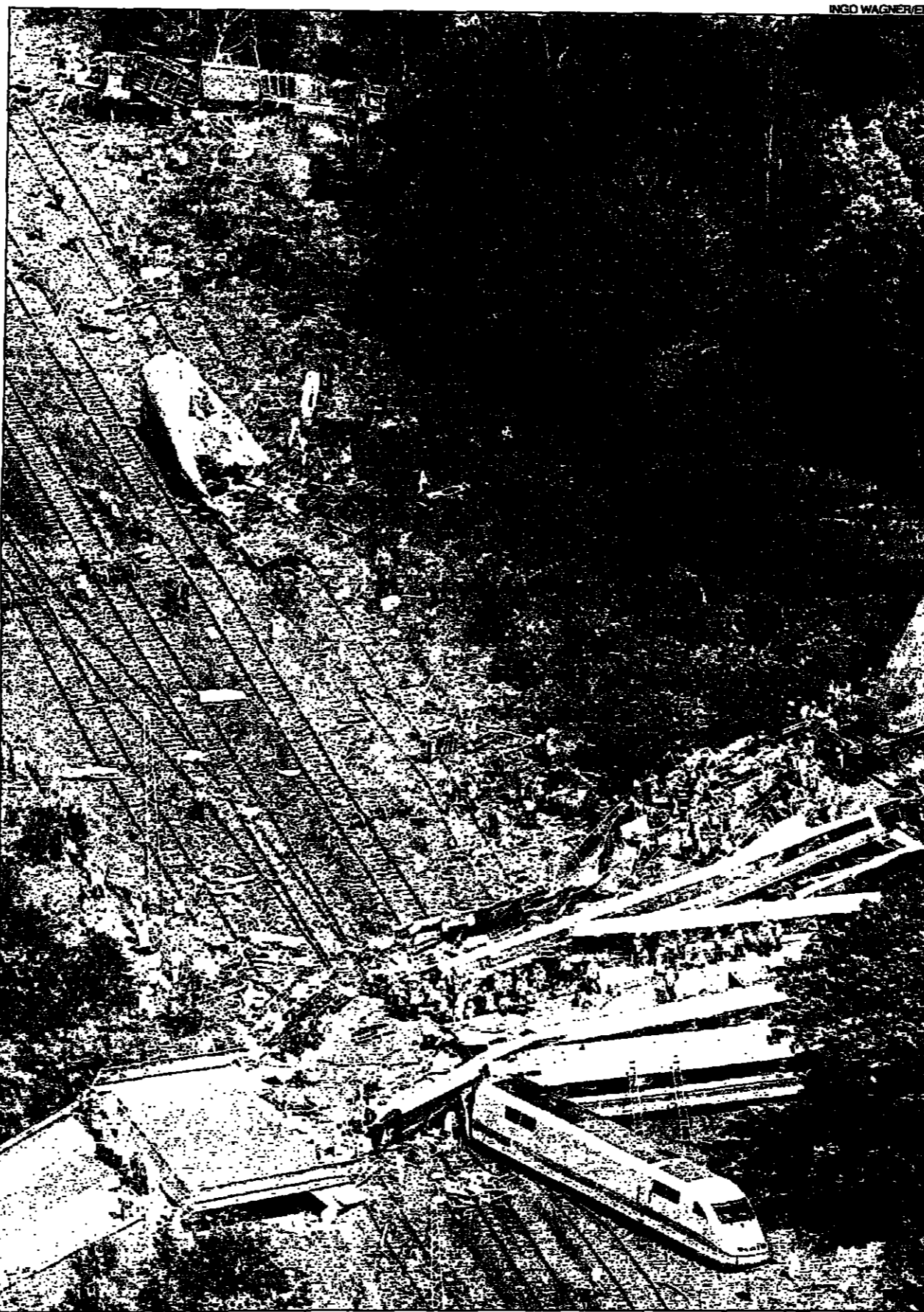
Andrew Davidson, a British painter and decorator who is working in Germany, said he had watched the crash in disbelief. "We were stopped on the road by the police because there had been an accident with a car coming off the bridge," he said. "The car was on its side on the tracks and we were waiting for ambulances to come to the scene. Then out of nowhere came the express train and everyone just closed their eyes."

"The train had no chance to stop. There was just an almighty great crash that seemed to go on for eternity. When the dust settled it was unbelievable. If you could picture a railway track that had been smashed up by a child, that is probably what it looked like. There were carriages on top of each other. Only one carriage came through the other side of the bridge. The bridge had come down on the last three coaches and totally flattened them."

Precise casualty figures were difficult to calculate but the train, with a capacity of 759 passengers, was thought to have been about half full.

Chancellor Kohl cut short a visit to Italy last night and returned home a day early. His election rival Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, also headed for Eschede.

Deathly silence, page 18



Firemen and rescuers trawl the wreckage for survivors after the ICE train crash yesterday

## North Korea may have nuclear bomb

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

NORTH KOREA may have at least one nuclear bomb, according to a confidential study by Japan's Defence Agency, a newspaper report said yesterday.

The *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*, a financial daily, also quoted an internal Defence Agency report as saying that the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan might tempt North Korea to resume its nuclear development programme. "There is a possibility that North Korea possesses at least one nuclear bomb," the Defence Agency report was quoted as saying.

Japanese defence officials declined to comment on the newspaper report. But Japan has expressed concern that Pakistan might help North Korea, with whom it has close ties, by transferring nuclear technology. The defence officials said that, even without the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, there were concerns that Pyongyang might reactivate a project to develop nuclear arms.

The Japanese officials fear that if North Korea presses ahead with developing a nuclear arsenal, South Korea

would feel pressure to acquire its own nuclear weapons to deter a possible attack. However Georgi Kurov, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Ministry in Moscow said yesterday: "If North Korea has a nuclear bomb, it would have to test it," but no tests have been conducted.

Meanwhile, Japan proposed convening an international forum on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, announced plans for an early meeting of experts from around the world to seek ways to maintain the non-proliferation regime and bring about the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Japanese press reports said the forum may be convened in Hiroshima. Japan, as the only country to have suffered a nuclear attack, believes its voice carries special authority. It has been among the strongest critics of Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, and has suspended economic aid, of which it is the biggest donor to both nations.

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Tunisia Din 3.200; USA \$3.50.



## World Cup fans face rail strike

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH train drivers yesterday called a strike for the eve of the World Cup, as a walk-out by Air France pilots entered its third day with no end to the dispute in sight.

The Independent Federation of Train Drivers, representing about one-third of all drivers, said it would stop work from June 9 to June 11 and continue striking until wage demands are met.

The World Cup begins on June 10. A combined strike by rail drivers and pilots is likely to plunge France into transport chaos, with millions of fans attempting to travel to the ten World Cup stadiums.

The pilots have vowed to continue their stoppage unless a salary reduction plan is dropped.

Numbers game, page 52

## Short criticises The Times over 'misleading report'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

CLARE SHORT launched an outspoken attack on *The Times* last night after she was lambasted by MPs for criticising the Red Cross.

She accused the newspaper of a misleading account of an interview with her in which she said - on record - that she planned to hit out at the world's oldest aid agency.

She said of the reporter who interviewed her: "The little man concerned wants to put a sort of aggressive argument line on a very important issue of public discussion."

*The Times* stands by its report. It taped the interview with Ms Short in her office at the Department for International Development.

The minister told *The Times* that she was planning to liken Red Cross appeals to "999 crews rattling boxes to raise funds when they don't need it

to run the ambulances". She said she had penned the diatribe in retaliation for the agency's criticism of her for suggesting last week that humanitarian appeals by many aid agencies made people "flinch and turn away".

Her 999 analogy was a deliberate play on remarks from a Red Cross official who said her criticism was "a little like blaming 999 crews because we have a lot of road accidents".

MPs yesterday attacked Ms Short over her intention to criticise the aid agency and when Ms Short delivered the speech an hour later she had removed all mention of the Red Cross. Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrat MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire, asked Ms Short if her remarks in *The Times* meant the Government was saying fund-

raising was unnecessary to deliver aid to Sudan. Ms Short replied: "No one should believe what they read in *The Times*."

But Ms Short clearly stated in the interview she was planning to elaborate on the Red Cross's 999 analogy by saying: "It is a bit like 999 crews rattling boxes to raise funds when they don't need it to run the ambulances and undermining the funding for the health service and proper traffic management."

A spokesman for the Department for International Development confirmed that Ms Short had considered making the 999 comment but that "she had decided not to". He added that her speech still contained the central message in her *Times* interview, which was that some appeals by aid agencies are unnecessary.

## Imprisoned soldiers win review

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is reviewing the cases of two Scots Guards serving life sentences for killing a terrorist suspect, the Government said last night.

She is examining a judgment by Mr Justice Coghlin last month that said she had been unable to explain why James Fisher, 29, from Ayr, and Mark Wright, 24, from Arbroath, must spend more than twice as long in prison than Ian Thain and Lee Clegg, two other British servicemen convicted of Ulster killings, who have since been freed.

Fisher and Wright were convicted of murder after shooting 18-year-old Peter McBride in the back in 1992 as he ran away from their foot patrol in a Republican area of Belfast.

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FOR ENGLAND



# Bravery beyond the menacing call of the whips' office

If there is anything you could call a hill in Thurrock, it should be named Mount Mackinlay tomorrow. In decades to come, the young of Thurrock will tug their dads' sleeves and ask if they remember where they were on the afternoon of June 3, 1998, when Andrew Mackinlay (Lab, Thurrock) took on the might of his own party machine.

I was there. At Prime Minister's Questions I witnessed an act of unbelievable bravery. A Labour MP stood up and

twitted Tony Blair — to his face! Humble little Mr Mackinlay, with his crumpled suit and drooped aitches, took a sling and let fly at a massively armoured Prime Minister and his fearsome Chief Whip. Mr Mackinlay told Mr Blair to stop scaring his MPs off their duty to hold the Government to account.

The chippy, chirpy, middle-aged Mr Mackinlay cannot stand an inch above 5ft 6in. Since winning Thurrock for Labour in 1992 he has inhabited the front bench below the

gangway — home of Dennis Skinner and a small gang of professional hecklers. Noisy as the rest, Mr Mackinlay is distinguished by his likeability, humour and opinions more populist than ideological. A minor hammer of the Tories, he has never looked like a whips' poodle — but nor has he given his own front bench any serious trouble.

Until yesterday, His Question to the Prime Minister had been selected by ballot as the first of the afternoon. He was first to be called — and will have known this for some

time beforehand. Unless you know the pressures this puts upon a government MP, you will not appreciate Mr Mackinlay's courage. The moment the list was published, a Blair lieutenant will have been on the phone. "You're first up for Wednesday. Your question's in the post." "I'll ask my own question, thanks." Angry silence. Phone

## MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

rings again. "Well at least tell us what you plan to ask." "What I choose." Another angry silence. Another phone call. "The PM would be enormously obliged if you'd give him a vague idea of your concern — so he can prepare a really helpful reply." "Sorry." Then the taps on the shoul-

der in the tea room: the approaches via friends: the quiet aside in the Members' Bar: the threatening glance in the genies: the promises: the threats... all these brave Mr Mackinlay will have resisted. Yesterday he rose in his place at 3.30pm. Mr Blair looked up edgily. Mr Mackinlay began diplomatically. He remembered the craven way Tories used to question their Government. He said: "The fawning, obsequious, soft-ball, planned questions..." All sides began to laugh.

The reference was to this Prime Minister. Sitting with Mr Blair, the Chief Whip studied his fingernails. Will you "discourage" such a practice," he said to Mr Blair, "and encourage loyal Labour MPs who seek to provide scrutiny and accountability?" There followed the loudest cheer heard this year in the Commons. The Prime Minister tried to grin. "I fully respect your independence of mind," he replied — then, with infinite menace, "and I'll do my very best to see you retain

it." Meaning "and while I live and breathe, a backbencher you'll stay". "Ooh!" squealed the mob. The next Labour question was from John Hutton (Lab, Barrow & Furness). To describe it as toadying would be to invite a group libel action from loads. MPs and journalists roared with laughter. The Chief Whip winced. A whole row of robots had been pre-programmed. It was too late to deprogramme them. You cannot just switch these people off. Yet.

# Ex-terrorists line up for seats in Ulster assembly

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST nine republicans and loyalists with terrorist convictions are seeking election to the new Northern Ireland assembly. Several played leading roles in securing the Good Friday peace agreement, but on the republican side particularly the sincerity of their conversion from bomb to ballot box

looks certain to be an election issue. Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, yesterday labelled Joe Cahill, his 78-year-old Sinn Fein opponent in North Antrim, "the leading terrorist godfather" of the IRA and urged his constituency's Unionists to unite behind the DUP and "send a certain

signal to the world that we reject the IRA, its terrorists and its terrorism". Mr Cahill's death sentence for killing a policeman in 1942 was commuted, but he later became a top IRA commander and was imprisoned in 1973 for trying to smuggle Libyan arms into Ireland. In recent years he has actively supported Sinn Fein's peace strategy.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Robert McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader, said that Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness were members of the IRA's army council. The two men, who are standing in West Belfast and Mid-Ulster, are likely to become ministers as well as assemblymen. Mr Adams was interned though never convicted, but Mr McGuinness was twice convicted of IRA membership in the Irish Republic.

Martin Meehan, another IRA veteran and quintessential republican hardliner, is standing for Sinn Fein in South Antrim. He has served at least three prison sentences, the most serious for kidnapping a TA soldier in 1988. Gerry Kelly, a Sinn Fein candidate in North Belfast, received a life sentence in 1973 for the Old Bailey bombing. He 'escaped' in 1983, was rearrested and released in



The Prince of Wales with his host, Mo Mowlam, at the garden party held at Hillsborough Castle yesterday

1995. He was seen as the hardliners' representative on Sinn Fein's Stormont negotiating team. Pat McNamee, a Sinn Fein councillor standing in Newry-South Armagh, served six years for firearms and explosives offences. On the loyalist side, David Ervine, the pipe-smoking Progressive Unionist Party leader who is standing in East Belfast, served five years in the 1970s after being arrested with an Ulster Volunteer Force bomb in his car. He is now regarded as one of Northern

Ireland's most committed advocates of peace. Billy Hutchinson, Mr Ervine's PUP colleague standing in North Belfast, served 15 years for his role in the murder of two Roman Catholics by the UVF in the early 1970s. He, too, played a key role in the Stormont talks, liaising with UVF prisoners in the Maze, and is now the UVF's go-between with the decommissioning body. John White, a senior member of the Ulster Democratic Party's Stormont team who is

standing in North Belfast, served 14 years for the fatal stabbing of Paddy Wilson, an Irish senator, and his girlfriend by the Ulster Freedom Fighters in 1973. One candidate with a terrorist past who opposes the peace process is Kenny McClintock, who is standing as an independent in David Trimble's Upper Bann constituency. He is a born-again Christian who served 16 years for a loyalist double murder in the 1980s. The Prince of Wales was guest of honour yesterday at a

garden party at Hillsborough Castle hosted by Mo Mowlam, the Ulster Secretary, and attended by politicians and victims of violence. The event was attended by some 2,500 people, including Gary McMichael and David Adams of the Ulster Democratic Party, which speaks for the UVF loyalist paramilitaries. The Prince met victims of terrorist violence and presented five Ulster people with MBEs and awarded an honorary OBE to an Irish-born doctor.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Brown will fight £3.20 youth wage

Gordon Brown is to urge the Cabinet to reject a recommendation from the Low Pay Commission calling for an minimum hourly wage of £3.20 for younger workers. Trade union leaders and some cabinet ministers are calling on Tony Blair to accept the commission's recommendations in full. The report had been due to go to Cabinet today for approval, but it has been delayed till next week. Last week the commission suggested those aged 18 to 21 should be given the lower £3.20 rate.

### Caught in the act

Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, is to appeal to makers of television soap operas and of "kitchen sink" movies to show benefit fraudsters being caught and prosecuted. Mr Field said he wanted to promote an anti-fraud culture.

### Barnsley blues

Four desperate refugees smuggled themselves 1,500 miles across Europe from the former Yugoslavia to seek freedom in Britain. But they found themselves stranded in the South Yorkshire coal town of Barnsley, took one look and gave themselves up.

### Lady Hurd ill

Judy Hurd, wife of Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, has leukaemia. The 51-year-old mother of two was admitted to hospital last week. Lord Hurd met his second wife when she was his secretary. They married in 1982.

### Baby hippo dies

The newborn hippopotamus rescued on Tuesday from a swollen lake by firefighters and safari park staff has died from swallowing water during its six-hour struggle at Bewdley, Worcestershire, despite a night in an oxygen tank.

## RUC COMMISSION TEAM



Lucy Woods, Chris Patten and Kathleen O'Toole

The Government yesterday named two Americans and a South African as members of the eight-strong commission on reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The chairman will be Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor. Members will include Kathleen O'Toole, a former Boston police officer who is now the Massachusetts Secretary for Public Safety, Gerald Lynch, president of a New York criminal justice institute, and Clifford Shearing, a South African-born criminologist. The other four will be Sir John Smith, former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Peter Smith, a Belfast QC, Maurice Hayes, a former Northern Ireland Ombudsman, and Lucy Woods, British Telecom's chief executive in Northern Ireland.

# Cockney Blair drops in but leaves 'is aitches behind

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IT'S the way he tells them. The public-school educated Tony Blair last night resorted to a watered-down cockney accent for his first appearance on the Des O'Connor television chat show.

Downing Street denied that the Prime Minister had modulated his normally cultured tones for his appearance last night on Des O'Connor's World Cup Party. But an analysis of his 22-minute appearance, complete with a mother-in-law joke which brought howls of laughter from the studio audience, showed that he strayed into Estuary English. The occasional aitch was

dropped at the beginning of words and the odd letter, particularly ds and ts, were left off at the end. Estuary English was identified in 1984 and is said to be adopted by working-class Cockneys who want to sound more upmarket and the middle classes who want street credibility.

Mr Blair described a reception with a local mayor in France. The Prime Minister said: "They pu' on a litte show for us with the mayor of the litte village."

Mr Blair brought the house down when the mayor brought in a horse as a gift. When Mr O'Connor asked what had become of the horse,

he replied: "E's come back to England."

Having been delayed in joining his family on holiday, he called the Spanish Prime Minister, who was their host, to apologise. "I rang 'im up. He says, 'Well, look. I will put 'em up in my house.'"

Mr O'Connor denied his guest had dumbled down. "Absolute nonsense," he said on Radio 4's The World at One. "He's a very personable gent."

Downing Street said: "This was the informal side of Mr Blair. It is for viewers to decide whether he was funny."

Mr Blair pledged to return and sing with Mr O'Connor if England win the World Cup.



Judy Hurd: leukaemia

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# New Sun Editor as Higgins quits

BY CAROL MIDDLEY AND RAYMOND SNODDY

STUART HIGGINS, Editor of The Sun, the country's biggest-selling daily newspaper announced his resignation last night.

In an emotional speech to his staff, Mr Higgins, 42, said that, after five years as editor, he had decided the time was right for a change. He had been discussing the move with management for several weeks and insiders say he alluded to his decision last week at a party to celebrate the 30th birthday of his deputy editor, Rebekah Wade. His



Higgins said the time was right for a change

successor is David Yelland, 35, deputy editor of the New York Post and former City editor of The Sun. Mr Higgins will continue to work in a senior capacity at News International, the company which also owns The Times.

He reflected that it was ironic that he was going in a week of major tabloid stories - Geri Halliwell's departure from the Spice Girls and Paul Gascoigne's dismissal from England's World Cup squad.

The popular tabloid end of the newspaper paper is the most competitive and the battle in recent years has been taking place against a background of falling circulations.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of The News Corporation, said: "Stuart has done a terrific job throughout his years at The Sun. Stuart is a brilliant newspaperman with a great future and we are sorry he has reached that decision."

Les Hinton, News International executive chairman, said: "For 20 years Stuart has been part of The Sun. As editor his brilliance and creativity have left a distinctive mark on the newspaper."

THIS SATURDAY IN THE TIMES MAGAZINE

Meet **RANKIN** the man who catches the stars

Dear John... I'm sorry to hear you have cancer

**JOHN DIAMOND REPLIES**

FREE WITH THE SATURDAY TIMES

Lottery

Hepa surge

barred

three y

Hunt for

# Lottery winner's son cleared of drug smuggling

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE son of a man who won £6.6 million on the lottery was cleared of drug smuggling yesterday. He left Manchester Crown Court claiming that his family's good fortune had made him a marked man.

Richard White, 34, from Glazebury, Cheshire, was one of three brothers given £1 million by their father Ken, 66, shortly after the win in May 1993. A jury found the

road haulage contractor not guilty of smuggling cannabis worth £1.25 million from southern Spain in a secret compartment of one of his trailers.

After the verdict, Mr White said: "The lottery itself made me a target. I am relieved it is over but should never have happened." He said he would now go on holiday with his wife, Julie.

His father, who attended every day of the five-week trial, said: "I didn't feel it was a duty because the

boy was innocent from day one." The prosecution had alleged that Mr White was a key member in a seven-man gang that smuggled 303 blocks of cannabis resin. The drugs were loaded on to one of Mr White's trailers in southern Spain and brought to Britain in a false bulk-head behind the driver's cab.

Customs and Excise officers told how they carried out surveillance on the gang for months as they set up the delicate operation. They tracked the trailer as it arrived in Ports-

mouth from Bilbao, Spain, with a legitimate load of onions. Once the onions were offloaded, it was driven to Walsley Farm, in Leigh, near Warrington. Officers swooped as the drugs were being unloaded.

Four men, described as the gang's foot soldiers, have pleaded guilty to conspiring to smuggle cannabis resin between September 1996 and April 1997.

Mr White sat in the dock alongside Anthony Toby, 35, from Smithfield, Manchester and Peter

Jemmett, 47, of Worsley, Greater Manchester. Each man had denied conspiracy.

The prosecution alleged that the smuggling ring used JR Plant Service Ltd, the haulage firm that Mr White set up with his share of the lottery win, as a legitimate front. However, Mr White told the jury that he was too busy spending his fortune to set up a complicated drug-smuggling operation.

He had effectively handed over the day-to-day running of his busi-

ness to his best friend while he lived the life of a playboy.

Mr White, a former lorry driver, said that before his father's win, he would sometimes work 18-hour days. After the win "it was always playtime."

After the verdict he said: "Anybody who wins the lottery will tell you that the bulk of the pressures come from people you know who start to treat you differently. No matter what you do, you are always in the wrong."

# Jockey 'was stabbed to death by her lover'

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN AMATEUR jockey was stabbed to death by her jealous lover as she collected her belongings from the home they shared, Carlisle Crown Court was told yesterday.

Michael Parker, 34, could not accept that his four-year affair with Fiona Barnes, 28, a vet's daughter who ran a livery stables, was over. He stabbed her repeatedly in the heart with a steak knife.

When police arrived at the cottage in Kirkhampton, near Carlisle, they discovered the body of the horsewoman dead on the bedroom floor. Mr Parker, who had tried to slit his throat and wrists, had crawled into the loft.

The knife that killed Miss Barnes was found in the kitchen with its blade bent at right angles. Mr Parker denies murdering Miss Barnes. Although he admits that he killed her, he says he was provoked.

Tim Holroyde, QC, for the prosecution, said that the couple had always had a stormy relationship. Mr Parker had met her after the break-up of his marriage. Several weeks before her death, she moved out of the house to live with a friend.

Mr Parker was desperate to patch up their relationship. The court was told that he had said to police "everything was exploding" inside his head after he started arguing with Miss Barnes.

The trial continues.



Sion Jenkins, centre, who is accused of murdering his foster daughter, arriving at Lewes Crown Court yesterday



Bill Jenkins, father of Billie-Jo, below, being restrained by police after the scuffle

# Father of murdered girl attacks accused

By JOANNE BAILE

THE natural father of Billie-Jo Jenkins lunged at her foster father yesterday as he arrived at court to stand trial for the teenager's murder.

Bill Jenkins was pinned against a wall by two policemen after spitting and hurling

abuse at Sion Jenkins (no relation) outside Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex.

Billie-Jo, 13, was found bludgeoned to death in the back garden of her foster family's home in Hastings in February last year.

The first day of the trial was taken up with legal arguments.



# Hepatitis surgeon is barred for three years

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SURGEON who fatally infected a patient with hepatitis B after operating on her while bleeding from a cut into her open wound was banned yesterday from operating for three years after being found guilty of serious professional misconduct.

Although the surgeon was told he behaved irresponsibly, lawyers representing him and the General Medical Council complained that Department of Health guidelines for health workers infected with the disease were inadequate and needed revision.

"It is a lamentable state of affairs. The public should be shocked and horrified," said Michael Gledhill, counsel for the surgeon, Sanjay Ingley.

Dr Ingley, 32, was told by the disciplinary committee of the General Medical Council that, although he would not be struck off the medical register, he would not be allowed to carry out any surgical procedures for the next three years.

Sir Herbert Duthie, chairman of the committee, told him: "Your irresponsible behaviour was compounded by the failure to inform the consultant senior orthopaedic surgeon on duty or theatre staff of your hepatitis carrier status and failure to fill in an accident form."

He said that the GMC's guidelines were very clear that doctors with a serious communicable disease should not rely on their own assessment of the risk to patients.

Mr Ingley had told the occupational health department at Ysbyty Gwynedd hospital in North Wales about his condition but, since this was confidential information, none of his colleagues was aware that he was infected.

Thus none of the nurses or doctors in the theatre with him reacted when they saw blood

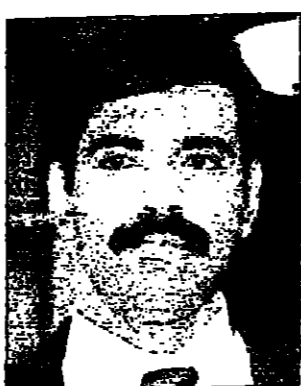
seeping from a cut in his finger as he carried out a hip replacement operation on Blodwen Jenkins, 83, in July of last year. The operation appeared to be a success, but she later died from hepatitis B.

Rosalind Foster, representing the GMC, suggested that the Department of Health guidelines should be looked at. "There are very substantial lessons to be learned from this inquiry," she said.

Mr Ingley's solicitor, Huw Edwards, said in a statement: "He believed, as he now accepts wrongly, that he was not capable of transmitting the hepatitis B virus to Mrs Jenkins. Had he been made aware that such transmission was possible he would undoubtedly have acted very differently."

"The proceedings have highlighted a number of serious defects in the guidance currently provided to the medical profession in respect of healthcare workers who are hepatitis B carriers. Dr Ingley hopes these shortcomings are addressed comprehensively and new guidelines issued as soon as possible."

Mrs Jenkins's son, Gwynn, left the hearing without comment.



Sanjay Ingley, guilty of professional misconduct

# Suicide tycoon told rescuers to 'finish him off'

By MARK HENDERSON

A SELF-MADE millionaire bored with early retirement begged firefighters to "finish him off" as he lay dying after shooting himself, an inquest was told yesterday.

Colin Bensley, 46, refused help after turning a shotgun on himself in front of his wife's workplace in Woodford Green, east London. He told firemen who had seen him shoot himself in his car: "Pick the gun up and finish me off." For ten minutes he resisted attempts to give him first aid, until asking for something to relieve his pain.

Mr Bensley, of Kew, southwest London, who made his fortune in computer banking technology, had become bored and depressed after retiring at 37, Walthamstow Coroner's Court was told.

Stuart Jones, a firefighter whose statement was read to the court, said: "I tried on three occasions to put the resuscitator on the man but he pushed it off and said 'Get my wife, she is in the white house opposite'. He then said, 'The pain is too much, pick the gun up and finish me off.'"

Mr Bensley was taken to the Royal London Hospital, where he died after emergency surgery.

Despite enjoying a lavish lifestyle, Mr Bensley had been plagued by black moods, boredom and a sense of worthlessness, his wife Rosemary told the inquest. He had not needed to work since retiring, and a new job in computing had not interested him.

The couple had separated for three days last autumn, prompting Mr Bensley to threaten to shoot himself, but his mood and the relationship had since improved. Mrs Bensley, his second wife, said. On the day of his suicide, he had appeared normal, though somewhat overaffectionate, when she left for work.

Elizabeth Stearns, the Walthamstow Coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

# Hunt for wild Blue yonder

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

A GREYHOUND that kept on running after finishing last in a race remained at large last night.

Muzzled and wearing an orange jacket emblazoned with the number five, Cavecourt Blue, who answers to the name of Wilma, sprinted from its handler, leapt over a wall, and squeezed through security railings to freedom on Tuesday evening at Poole, Dorset.

The trainer, Jo Burridge, spent most of yesterday in a

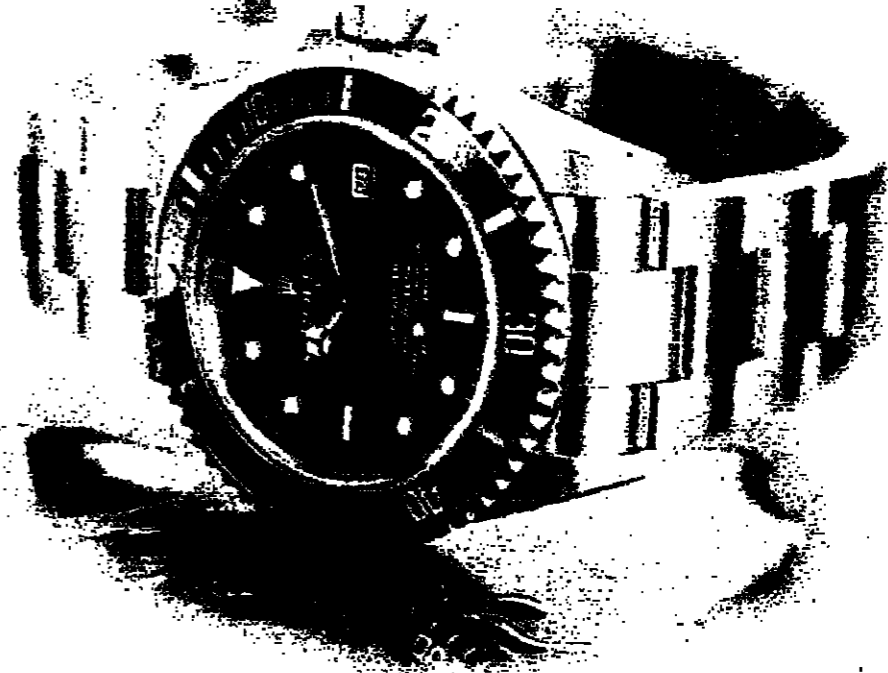
fruitless search. The dog can eat and drink while muzzled, but Mrs Burridge said: "She will be a little bit worried now because she is out of her usual surroundings. Greyhounds are not used to that sort of thing. She finished the race and she and another dog were playing around together, when she decided to jump over a wall. All the main security gates were closed, but she threaded her way through the railings."

Cavecourt Blue was spotted

running in traffic at a roundabout, and heading towards a nearby B & Q store. An attempted capture in a car park failed. The dog was spotted in the same area early yesterday, but there were no sightings after that.

The greyhound came from Ireland in April and has been trained at kennels near Blandford, Dorset. In four races, it was first knocked over by another dog, then came third, then had two last positions.

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# Freddie Starr admits slapping teenage son

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

FREDDIE STARR was given a conditional discharge by magistrates yesterday after admitting slapping his teenage son.

The comedian claimed that he had hit his estranged son Jody, 18, after he was disrespectful towards him. Starr, 55, apologised for his part in the incident, which he said had been blown out of all proportion, and challenged his son to reciprocate. "He should be man enough to apologise to his father," he said in a statement to the court.

He blamed his former wife for the breakdown in his relationship with his son. He said that his second wife, Sandy, the mother of three of his children, was so bitter after their acrimonious divorce that "she would like to invade Poland".

He speculated that she had pushed his son into complaining to the police about the incident. Starr, who spent six hours in a police cell, and had his fingerprints taken, said the case would never have come to court if he had not been in the public eye.

Earlier Maidenhead magistrates were told that Starr, of Play Hatch, Oxfordshire, had gone to White Waltham air-



Jody Starr with his father in 1991. He is now 18

field on April 28 to visit his son, a ground crewman. Anthony Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said the teenager greeted his father and the two had talked before the accused became abusive about his former wife.

When the teenager turned to walk away, Starr told him: "Don't you ever walk away from me," before slapping him on the side of his face, causing bruising.

Phillip Payne, for the defence, said it was a domestic incident that would normally

not have gone to court, but the teenager had insisted on charges being pressed.

Their relationship had suffered after Starr went through a bitter divorce from his mother four years ago. He had since attempted to build bridges with his children, without their mother's co-

operation. Last Christmas Starr had arranged for them to attend one of his shows. Mr Payne said the children had chosen a night when they were working the following morning, ruining the purpose of a night out with their father, and the incident had left bad feeling.

Since then Starr's attempts to contact his son had been unsuccessful and he decided to take an opportunity to visit him at his work as he would not have gone to the matrimonial home.

Mr Payne said that, as soon as Starr greeted his son, the teenager had become abusive. Starr was taken aback by the hostility directed at him and lashed out in temper after his son struck him first. "He regarded it as chastisement for being disrespectful to his father. Jody's immediate action was to say, while smiling, 'Right. I've got you now. I am going to phone the police up'."

Starr, who was ordered to pay £45 towards costs, has not spoken to his son since the incident.



Freddie Starr outside court with his girlfriend, Donna Smith. He said his son should now apologise

## Gas agent forged signature of dead man on contract

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WIDOW plans to sue an energy company after an agent forged her dead husband's signature on a gas supply contract.

Catherine Foster returned from holiday to find two letters thanking her late husband, Geoffrey, for changing from British Gas to Energi From Norweb. When she challenged the company, part of the former North West Electricity Board, it sent her a copy of the contract with her husband's signature. It was dated April 23, 1998, 18 months after he died from cancer, aged 52. It described Mr Foster as 81 and divorced, and said he had lived in the house for six years.

The company has admitted that a man employed by an agency acting for them had invented the contract. By the time Mrs Foster complained, he had been dismissed as "unsuitable".

Mrs Foster, 50, from Hull, said: "Their apology is just not good enough. When I

complained, they made it seem as if I was lying to them."

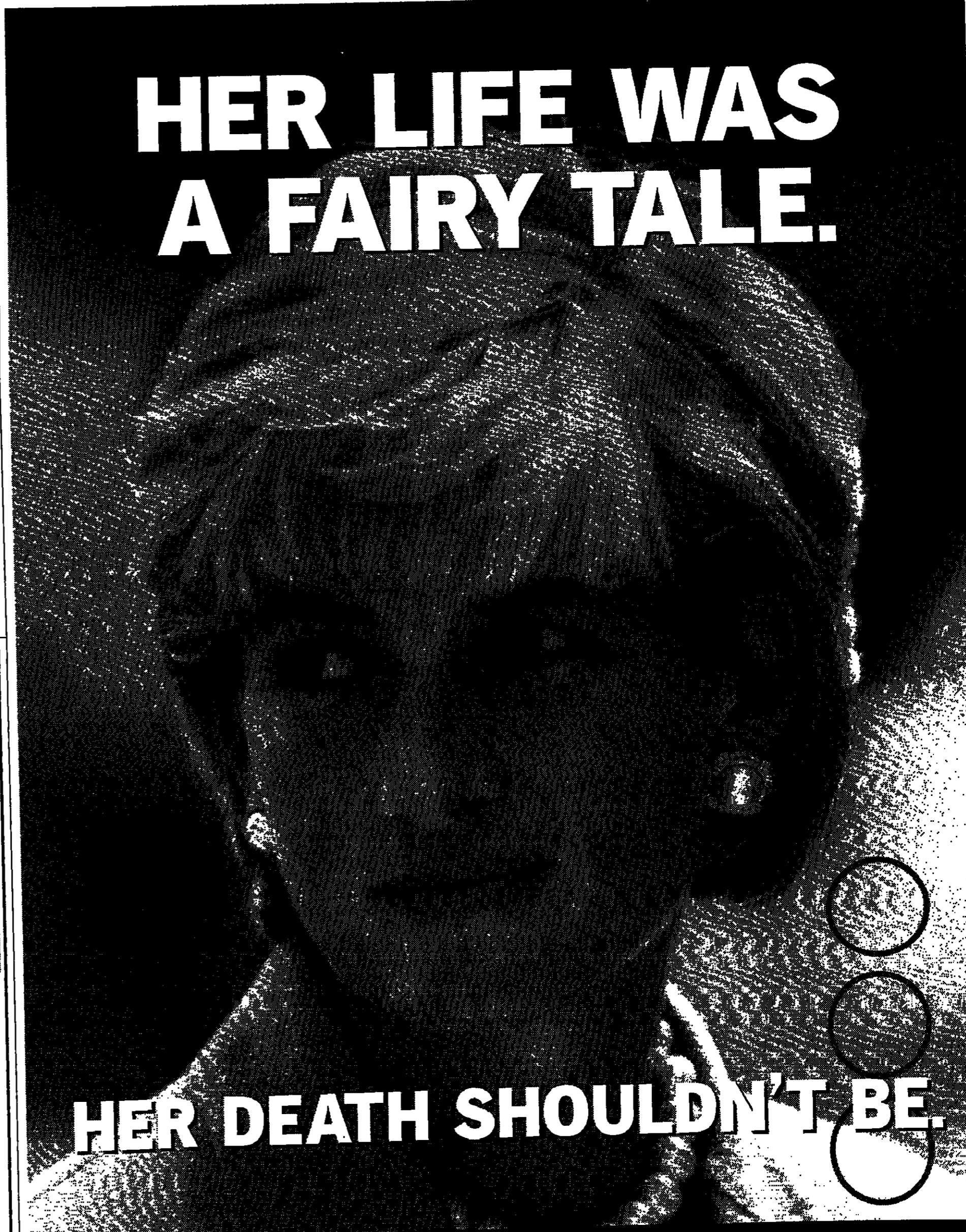
Her husband died in October 1996, after a brain tumour was diagnosed in 1987. They had been married for 27 years and have three children.

Mrs Foster said: "I'm so angry. They think they can just walk in and cause this distress and then apologise and it will be all right. I intend to sue them."

John Ferriday, agency manager for Energi From Norweb in Manchester, admitted the contract had been invented. He said: "Energi deeply regret any distress which has been caused." An employee was sent to apologise with flowers and Mr Ferriday has written to her.

Hilary Putman, regional manager for the Gas Consumers' Council, said: "Sadly, these cases do occur involving rogue agents and, when they do, Ofgas can take enforcement action against that particular company."

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# Cut in class size 'will mean more mixing of ages'

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

MANY more children will have to be taught in mixed-age classes if the Government is to deliver its election pledge on class sizes, according to a report to be put to ministers today.

The research, commissioned by local authority leaders, sets out options for limiting classes to 30 pupils up to the age of eight. Its authors — management consultants — conclude that teaching children with others of different ages may offer the only alternative to limiting parental choice.

Primary schools and councillors have become increasingly concerned about the practical problems associated with the Government's promise to limit class sizes by 2001. Almost 30 per cent of children up to the age of eight are in oversized classes this year.

The Local Government Association will meet Stephen Byers, the School Standards

## SCHOOL SAVED

A school faced with closure has been saved after parents and local businesses clubbed together to buy it. More than £250,000 has been raised to keep open the Ash Lea Independent School in Eccles, Manchester, although the high school section will still close this summer.

Minister, this afternoon to discuss five options identified by Coopers & Lybrand. The consultants acknowledge that all have drawbacks and at least one would require legislation to limit parental appeals on the allocation of school places.

Labour's election manifesto claimed that the pledge would be met by phasing out the Assisted Places Scheme, but extra money has already been found to build new classrooms in cramped primary schools.

Creating extra classes in each year group exceeding the new limit would require far more funding than existing plans allow, as well as adding hugely to surplus school places at a time when ministers are trying to reduce the number.

Mr Byers issued guidance to local authorities last month, urging them to concentrate extra classes in popular schools.

Government sources acknowledged yesterday that there could be some increase in mixed-age teaching, but emphasised that ministers would approve local plans to ensure that parental choice was maintained.

More than half of the authorities surveyed by the consultants said that oversized classes resulted from appeals, many of which added to school rolls in mid-year. The report says primary schools might have to reverse the trend towards admitting "rising fives" if they were to control numbers effectively. Such a policy would have to be adopted by all the schools in a particular area, rather than just those that have large classes.

The consultants raise the possibility of more than one teacher taking large classes, but suggest that an increase in mixed-age teaching was a more likely solution for most local authorities. This would minimise the number of extra classes and allow more parents their first choice of school.

Mixed-age classes are already common in small schools: about a quarter of primary school children are taught in such groups. However, the report says that many teachers are suspicious of the practice and have little experience of it. Parents and governors tend to oppose the mixing of age groups, and 9 per cent of the authorities surveyed said they preferred large classes.



Baroness Thatcher with a Moore sculpture at Downing Street. She said: "I like this one, but I don't like the big, lumpy ones"

## Thatcher takes lumps out of Blair art

Andrew Pierce on how former occupant does not like new decor at Downing Street

BARONESS THATCHER has returned to her old home in Downing Street to examine how the new occupants have changed the decor. Tony Blair was away at the time. It was just as well.

She was displeased that china cabinets that once housed her Falklands mementoes have gone, and she lamented the disappearance of portraits of her heroes Winston Churchill, Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington, Michael Faraday and Sir Isaac Newton. "I am in league with them," she said.

Lady Thatcher was making a rare appearance as art critic for a BBC2 documentary, the *Secret Art of Government*, which explores the Government's art collection. For the first time, cameras will be revealing the artistic taste of the Establishment.

The former Conservative leader has twice returned to Downing Street to advise Mr Blair on foreign policy. This time he gave her permission to return with a camera crew.

However, she bemoaned his preference for contemporary artists such as Howard Hodgkin and Theresia Oulton, whom she felt looked out of place in the state rooms wood-panelled by Sir John Soane at the turn of the last century.

Lady Thatcher, who as Prime Minister once sought private tuition at the National Gallery on the meaning of art, expressed least admiration for the works of the late Henry

Moore. Pictured alongside a Moore sculpture, she said: "I like this one, but I don't like the big, lumpy ones."

There was more in the same vein. In fact, it was Lady Thatcher who first imported the Moore sculptures — famed for being big and lumpy — into Downing Street in 1984. A Moore sculpture adorned the Downing Street entrance hall when she was mistress of the house. Such was her enthusiasm she acquired more works in 1989 courtesy of an Arts Council loan.

Her diminished enthusiasm may be explained by the fact he once said: "It is not in my bones to vote anything

but Labour." The Blairs have no intention of moving his works.

The documentary, to be shown on June 13, explores an art collection regarded as one of Whitehall's best-kept secrets, taking the cameras behind normally closed doors. Since the general election last year, television crews have had unique but closely controlled access to Downing Street, ministerial offices, the British Embassies in Paris and Cairo, and the collection's private headquarters in Soho.

On one subject at least, Lady Thatcher is in full agreement with the new mistress of 10 Downing Street. Both Lady Thatcher and Cherie Booth have declared that their favourite portrait is of the actress Dame Ellen Terry, who was also the great aunt of Sir John Gielgud.

## British pupils are less likely to cheat

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

CHILDREN in Britain are less likely to cheat in exams than their peers anywhere else, an international exam assessor said yesterday.

Last year about 40 cases of cheating were discovered in GCSE examinations nationwide: in 158 other countries the number was far higher, with one country broadcasting exam questions over national radio the morning students were sitting it.

Ron McLone, the convenor of the Joint Forum for GCSE and GCE, which represents examination boards across the country, said: "Children are

less likely to cheat in the UK. There is a sense of fair play and honesty. I think we can safely say we are probably top of the league."

George Turnbull of the Southern Examining Group said: "There will always be some people who try to beat the system. Generally though, people here are upright."

Most of the 40 cases had involved pupils smuggling notes into the exam room. However, one had attempted to use a mobile phone. Invigilators were alerted when the phone rang as the cheat's collaborator called back.

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# Noddy goes under cover with Miss Marple

MISS MARPLE, the eternal spinster of Agatha Christie's crime novels, is to move in with Noddy. Chorion plc, the company that owns Enid Blyton's works, yesterday signed a £10 million deal giving it a 64 per cent majority share in Agatha Christie Ltd.

The deal heralds a worldwide revival in Christie books, films and merchandise. The new owners are already drawing up plans to make new screen versions of Miss Marple mysteries such as *The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side* and Poirot classics, *Death on the Nile* and *Murder on the Orient Express*.

There are also plans for games based on the books, which will be retranslated and re-jacketed for regions where Christie is less popular, including Scandinavia, Asia and South America.

Chorion assured Christie fans that Miss Marple would not be Americanised in the way that Noddy has. Chorion recently took Noddy and his friends to America and changed their speech to suit American children. While British Noddy says "Golly gosh!" for example, American Noddy says "Gee whizz."

David Lane, managing director of the company's intellectual property division, said: "This will not happen with Miss Marple and the rest of the Agatha Christie characters. She is a very different property who actually sells on her quintessential Britishness."

## Company adds Agatha Christie majority rights to those of Enid Blyton, reports Carol Midgley

Like Enid Blyton, her works continue to hold an enduring magic and appeal and she attracts three million new readers across the world each year. We intend to build on this by developing the licensing opportunities, in particular television and other broadcasting rights."

Christie wrote 79 crime novels and 19 plays, and her works have sold more than two billion copies around the world. They are outsold by only the Bible and Shakespeare. One billion of the sales are in 44 foreign languages.

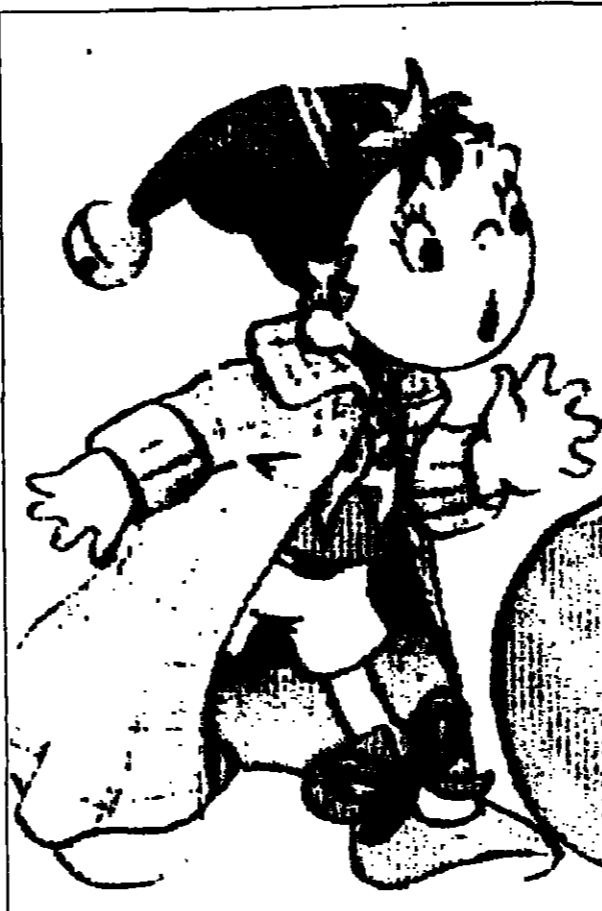
The 36 per cent of the company not going to Chorion will continue to be owned by members of the Christie family. Mathew Prichard, the author's grandson and chairman of the Christie board, said: "We look forward with enthusiasm to a new partnership with Chorion whose expertise in intellectual property will assist us to promote Agatha Christie with new

vigour." Agatha Christie Ltd made a pre-tax profit of £1.5 million last year.

The deal — the majority share was previously held by the food company Booker plc, sponsors of the Booker Prize — will add sales of more than £2 million a year for Chorion, which recently changed its name from Trocadero, as in the West End leisure complex. It is rebranding itself as an operator of theme restaurants and is building a fast-growing intellectual property arm. Enid Blyton has seen profits rise five-fold since 1996, when Chorion paid £14 million for the business. Sales last year hit £3.7 million.

Nick Tambllyn, Chorion's managing director, said the Agatha Christie purchase added "another excellent brand". Chorion intends to bring a harder commercial edge to the business and sees scope for merchandising on the Enid Blyton lines, which has spawned everything from Noddy cakes and baked beans to clocks.

The deal does not include rights to *The Mousetrap*, the long-running West End play that opened in London in November 1952.



Leading article, page 23

Under the same roof: Noddy and Miss Marple (Joan Hickson), right, and their authors, Enid Blyton and Agatha Christie, below and above

## Millennium weekend to be four-day holiday

By MARK HENDERSON

BRITAIN will get a four-day bank holiday weekend to celebrate the millennium, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, confirmed yesterday.

There will be an extra bank holiday on Friday, December 31, 1999, and the standard New Year's Day holiday will be taken on Monday, January 3, 2000, because January 1 falls on a Saturday. With Christmas Day and Boxing Day also falling at a weekend, pushing more bank holidays into the week, there will be just two working days between December 24 and January 4.

The holiday will be a bonus and not replace any of the eight standard bank holidays.

The Confederation of British Industry is now in favour of the proposal despite initial concerns. Church groups have accepted the plan despite preferring an extra holiday around Whitsun, which Christians worldwide have set aside for celebrations of the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth.

## Officials take stand against goat farmer

By MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A GOAT farmer has been told by health officials that she must get rid of the wooden stand on which she has been milking her animals for more than 14 years.

Judy Henderson, 64, of Holne, Devon, said yesterday that she had also been told she could not go on milking her four goats in the same building in which she cools and stores the 120 pints they produce each week.

Anthony Steen, Conservative MP for Totnes, accused officials of being "overzealous" and called for a new code of practice.

Peter Wearden, senior environmental health officer at the South Hams District Council, said: "We have to be careful about the hygiene of raw products, given the concern about *E. coli*, but we are anxious to be fair to small producers like Mrs Henderson. We are trying to find a way round her problem."



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# Man and nature threaten ancient monuments

ANCIENT monuments in England are falling prey to urban expansion, industrial and agricultural development and the forces of nature at the rate of one a day.

More than 22,000 sites have vanished since 1945, a comprehensive survey of archaeological sites has disclosed. Among recent casualties have been Neolithic burial mounds, Iron Age farmsteads, Roman villas and medieval monasteries.

Nearly a million archaeological sites have been documented in England, one of the highest densities in Europe. Only some 17,000, ranging in age from half a million years ago to the present century, are on the government schedule, introduced a century ago, of monuments that cannot be destroyed without formal consent. Many are noted sites such as Stonehenge and Avebury, but others are visible only from the air.

At Knowlton, Dorset, where the unseen foundations of a series of timber circles larger than Stonehenge were detected recently by geophysical prospecting, the visible earth-

Historic sites are being destroyed

at the rate of one every day, writes Norman Hammond

works of the Neolithic henge are surrounded by cropmarks of vanished structures that have been destroyed by ploughing. The site is now protected.

Both natural and human agencies are attacking thousands of other sites. Because of coastal erosion, the gun-emplacements of Ringborough Battery on Humberstone beach, and an important Second World War defensive site is already vanishing. Ancient landscapes are also falling victim to roadbuilding: the upgrading of the A1 in the East Midlands has revealed prehis-

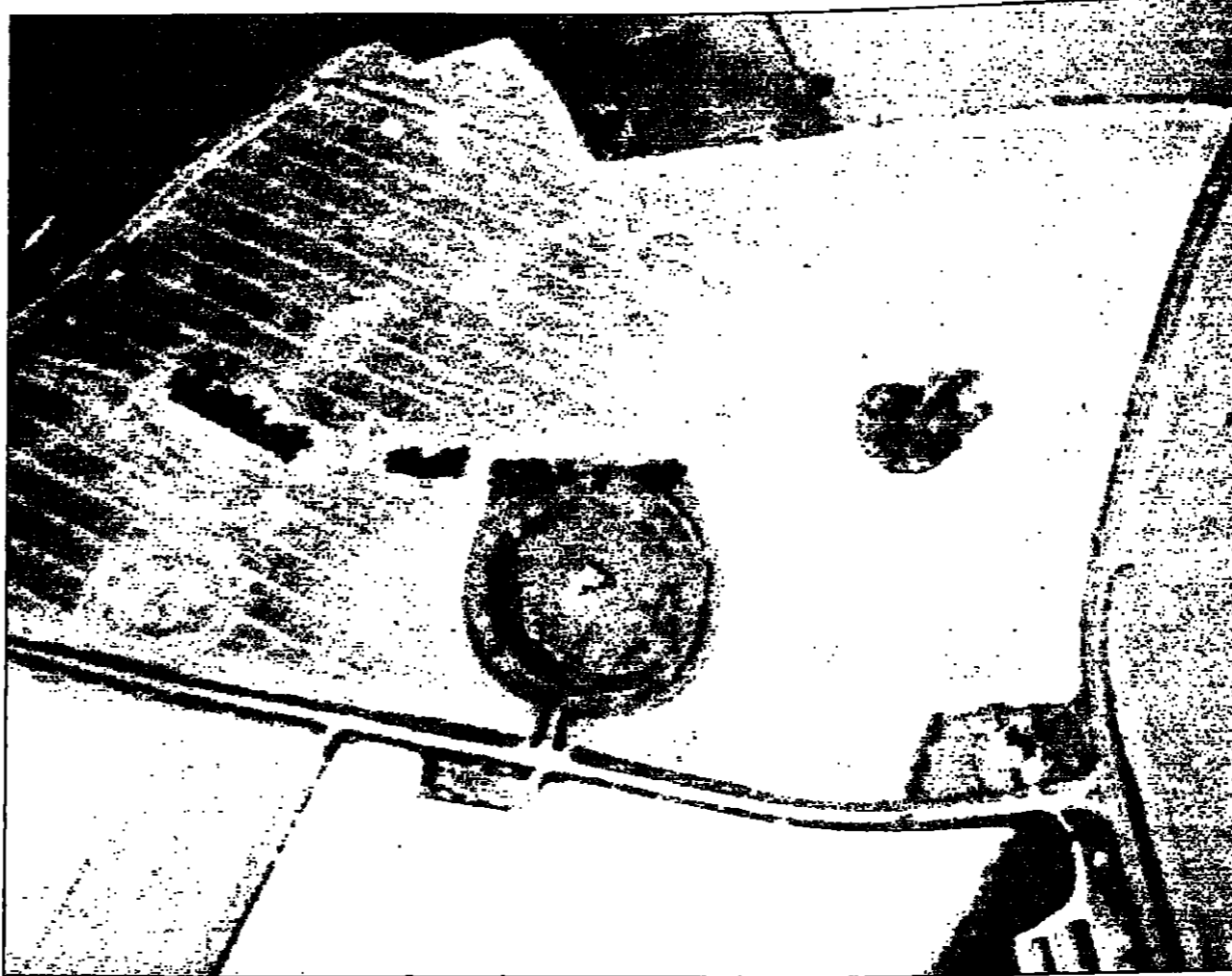
toric settlements and burials only to sweep them away.

"We will not be able to save every scheduled monument at risk," said Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, publishing the *Monuments at Risk Survey* yesterday. "If we save half, we will have done very well."

He was speaking at the Rose, the Elizabethan theatre in Southwark uncovered in 1989 during construction work that is now in the basement of an office block, its future still to be determined.

Among damage highlighted in the document is that to Legbourne Priory, Lincolnshire, where the remains of a 12th-century Cistercian nunnery have been mutilated by earthmoving. One of the fishponds used by the nuns to provide Friday meals has been destroyed. The Iron Age settlement of Buzbury Rings in Dorset has been damaged by golf-course development.

"It's something of a horror story," said Professor Timothy Darvill, who directed the research for the survey at Bournemouth University.



The Neolithic/Bronze Age henge site at Knowlton, Dorset, where damage has been done by ploughing

"We are losing the equivalent area of ten football pitches every day."

The survey shows that the rate of destruction has been greatest in the South East, with nearly a quarter of recorded monuments destroyed, against a national average of

16 per cent. More than 4,000 monuments are currently at high risk of serious damage or destruction, and a further 64,000 at medium risk, with the highest concentrations in the West Midlands, the North East and in Yorkshire. Forty-four per cent of land

known to hold archaeological remains had been destroyed by 1995, 9 per cent by wholesale destruction of monuments, and the remaining 35 per cent by piecemeal losses. Only 5 per cent of monuments surveyed had suffered no recent damage. Urbanisation,

demolition and development accounted for almost half of the wholesale destruction, agriculture for a third of the piecemeal loss.

Vandalism, tourism, military damage, forestry and natural processes accounted for a further 40 per cent of what Professor Darvill called "nibbling away at the past". Roadbuilding, in spite of the vocal protests against it, accounts for only a minor amount of site destruction, and much of that is ameliorated by well-planned rescue excavations ahead of construction.

"This is a national picture, to develop strategic policies: the evidence lies beneath our feet," Sir Jocelyn said.

"We are not yet in the business of naming and shaming those who are putting monuments at risk," Professor Darvill added. Geoffrey Wainwright, English Heritage's chief archaeologist, said that a lot could be achieved towards preservation by better liaison between national and local government and the private sector. The survey had "given us a platform on which we can proceed", he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Tube staff vote to take action

London Underground workers voted overwhelmingly yesterday to take industrial action in a dispute linked to privatisation. The national executive of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union will decide today whether to announce dates for strikes or other forms of industrial action. Union leaders made it clear that there would be strikes unless there were peace moves in the next few days.

## Mountain death

A Briton fell to his death while mountain-walking in northern Spain. Louis Alexandrou, 57, who was born in London, fell into a ravine after becoming separated from friends. His body was flown from the site yesterday.

## Danger cars

Up to one in three cars hired abroad are often so poorly maintained that they could endanger life, the Consumers' Association magazine, *Which?*, reports after testing cars in Crete and on the Costa del Sol.

## Unlucky break

Jonathan Ethernon-Baker, 35, who cycled 4,200 miles on a round-Britain trip, fell from his bike and broke his back just ten miles from home in the New Forest. He had already raised £4,000 for charity.

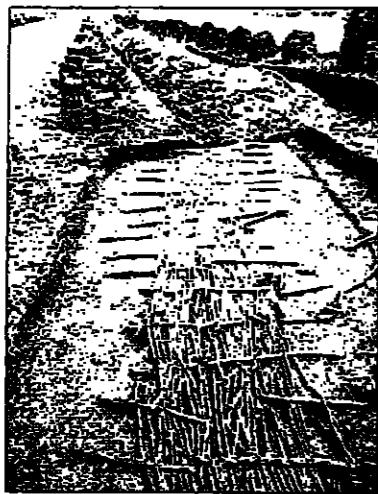
## Crime calls pay

More than 25,000 people have been charged as a result of anonymous calls to the Crimestoppers scheme since its launch in 1988. Digby Carter, the director, said that property worth £35 million had been recovered.

## Unhappy bunnies

Volkswagen has withdrawn an advertisement for Audi cars showing a squashed toy bunny lying in the road after the Advertising Standards Authority received 46 complaints, the highest number in the shortest time this year.

ANCIENT SITES AT RISK, PROTECTED OR LOST FOREVER



The 4,000-year-old Eclipse Track

1. Knowlton, Dorset: "a fine example of a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age henge monument with raised earth banks," English Heritage says. "Other enclosures and several burial mounds have been ploughed flat and can be seen as cropmarks." The complex is a scheduled ancient monument and afforded statutory protection; otherwise the remaining structures, including the ruins of a medieval church in the centre of the henge circle, would still be endangered.

2. Eclipse Track, Somerset Levels: a well-preserved pathway of wooden hurdles built around 2000 BC. The track was uncovered during peat-cutting. Waterlogging had preserved it, and other prehistoric trackways, including the Sweet Track, the oldest purpose-built route in the world dating to 6,000 years ago. Such evidence is threatened by peatworking and subsequent drying-out of the landscape.

3. Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex: the road runs through an area of dense ancient habitation near Chichester. The home of Boxgrove Man, at



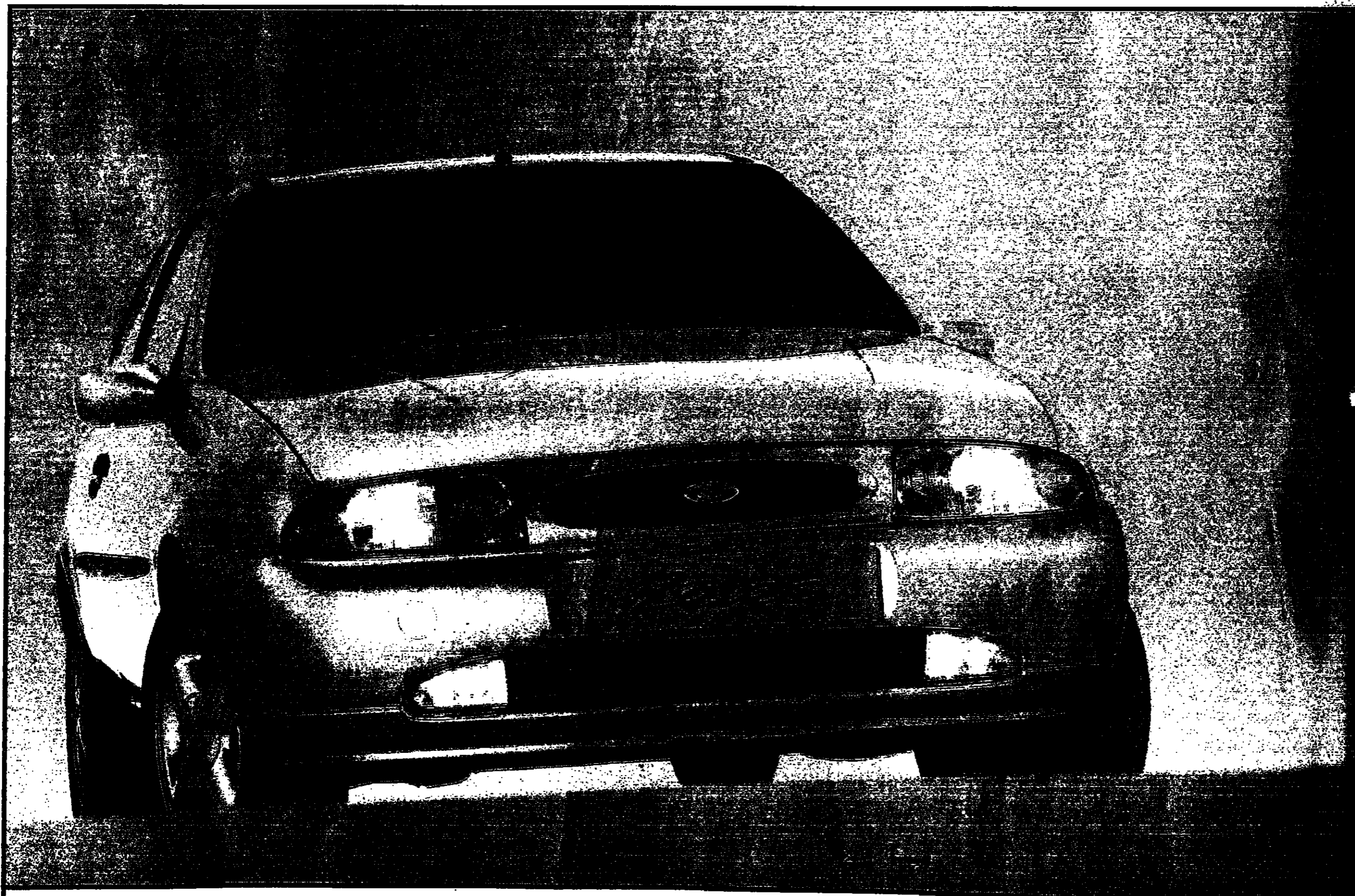
Westhampnett Bypass, home of Boxgrove Man, and medieval timbers at Hemington

half a million years old "the earliest Englishman", lay nearby with many other Ice Age sites. Along the path of the road, prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites were excavated as a planned part of the development.

4. Castle Donington, Leicestershire: the Hemington gravel quarry revealed the surprising and well-preserved remains of several medieval timber bridges. Those shown here date



to the period shortly after the Norman Conquest. "Since few 11th-century timber buildings survive above ground, these structures provide answers to questions about the development of building techniques in this period which are otherwise unobtainable," English Heritage says. The timbers were lifted for eventual museum display before the site was destroyed in the course of quarrying.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tube staff vote to take action

Mountain death

Danger cars

Unlucky break

Crime dials pay

Unlucky bunnies

# Earl renews attack on the Palace over Diana

By DANIEL MCGRORY

EARL SPENCER is likely to widen his rift with the Royal Family by giving a critical account on television of their treatment of Diana, Princess of Wales.

He will give his views on her marriage and acrimonious divorce in the BBC documentary to be shown later this month. After his public attack on the Royal Family during the Princess's funeral, any further criticism can only worsen relations between the Spencers and Buckingham Palace.

The two families have already said they will spend the anniversary of the Princess's death in August apart, the Royal Family at Balmoral and Lord Spencer and his two sisters at Althorp in Northamptonshire.

It is understood the earl does not give full vent to his private belief that the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family drove his sister to a near-breakdown with eating disorders. He is, though, believed to criticise how they dealt with the Princess before and after marriage.

The Palace will be angered



Earl Spencer: will give critical account on TV

that while Lord Spencer has joined in condemnation of protracted television coverage of the Princess, he is co-operating with this 45-minute programme. The BBC says it will show "never before seen film of the island on which Diana is buried".

A spokesman for the earl said filming was still taking place and it was not known whether the camera crew had been allowed on the island. Her exact burial place is meant to be a secret.

The earl said last night he only agreed to take part in the documentary because of the "intense media interest in Althorp". "This will allow the many thousands of people who cannot visit the estate this summer to see the museum to Diana and the grounds," a spokesman said.

He has also allowed the BBC to use home video footage of his sister as a child. Lord Spencer will reveal "his feelings since her death and the legend surrounding her".

Both he and the Royal Family have criticised two television documentaries shown this week which speculated about Diana's marital intentions and what caused the fatal crash in Paris.

The French judge investigating the accident has called a meeting of key witnesses on Friday, when they will be shown pictures of the crash scene and allowed to challenge each other's evidence in what the French call a *confrontation*. Judge Hervé Stephan said he hoped it would decide the cause of the crash.

Relatives of the Princess want the judge to produce his final verdict before the anniversary of her death to stop fanciful speculation.



Waiting for the train: ponies grazing on the disused sports ground where the station for the Channel Tunnel rail link will be built

## Ebbsfleet: unlikely gateway to Europe

Peter Foster tries to visualise site of new international rail terminal

IF A businessman from Brussels stepped off a train in Ebbsfleet tomorrow, he would find a town in need of more than a lick of paint.

The proposed site of the international passenger terminal announced by John Prescott yesterday sits in an area of chronic unemployment and is in desperate need of the sort of economic fillip the Channel Tunnel rail link should bring.

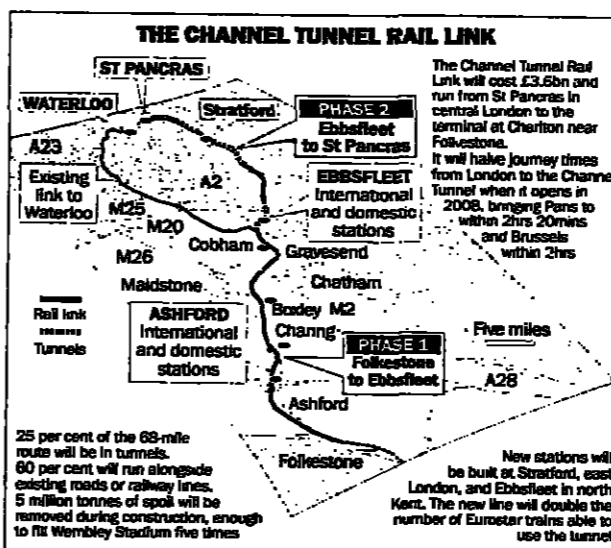
The present railway station is two platforms and a graffiti-covered ticket office that opens for three hours in the morning. The town, which sprawls along the Thames east of London, is built around a cement factory whose three towers overshadow the pebble-dash houses.

Twenty years from now, the developers are promising, wealthy couples will be queuing to buy riverside

apartments on the site of the cement works. Businessmen will have easy access to the continent via the Ebbsfleet terminal which is to be built on a disused sports ground bought for the project.

Today the sports field's bowling greens are overgrown with dandelions and knee high grass while ponies graze on a cricket square whose pavilion is boarded up.

The Ebbsfleet terminal is part of a multibillion-pound plan to regenerate north Kent and its Thameside region. Developers have already begun work on what will be Europe's largest shopping centre—at a disused quarry a mile from the site of the proposed station. The Blue Water complex will have 1.65 million sq ft of shopping and leisure facilities.



Ebbsfleet, in Dartford, on a junction off the M25, a business park is already half finished. As well as offices for companies wanting to relocate from central London, restaurants, jogging tracks and a fishing lake are planned. The arrival of the

the Kent Thameside development was one of the most important in the country.

Yesterday the people of Northfleet, the town which backs on to the Ebbsfleet site, remained enthusiastic about the project despite ten years of false dawns and disappointments. Chris Steer, a pub landlady, said local businesses were crying out for the development: "It's not just a train station," she said, "but all the housing and shops that come with it. We need the trade desperately."

Not everyone was so ecstatic about the arrival of the Eurostar at Northfleet. For those unfortunate enough to have bought houses near the planned route the Ebbsfleet development heralds noise pollution and falling property values.

Trudie Meen, who works for a taxi firm, said: "There will be a lot of protests. The station is being built on our green belt, which is being ruined. The sports fields are full of wildlife and flowers."

## Pensioner tried to bite me, accused officer says

By A CORRESPONDENT

A POLICEMAN told a jury yesterday that he had squirted CS spray into the face of a pensioner parked on a double yellow line because the man was being aggressive.

PC Andrew Taylor, 31, a traffic policeman from Bedford, who denies assault, told Luton Crown Court that he and PC Mark Harrison had felt that Kenneth Whitaker's car was causing an obstruction because it was parked on double lines near a roundabout. PC Harrison had wound down his window to ask Mr Whitaker if he could please move his car. Mr Taylor said that Mr Whitaker had told them to "piss off".

Mr Taylor said the intention had been to give Mr Whitaker a parking ticket. Had Mr Whitaker explained that he was dropping his elderly wife off at the hairdresser's, they would have simply advised him to move off.

PC Taylor said that Mr Whitaker had refused to give PC Harrison his name and address. "I heard Mr Whitaker say 'You are a bastard and a little man,'" PC Taylor said that after Mr Whitaker had again aggressively refused to give his name, he had told him that he was arresting him and had cautioned him.

Fearing Mr Whitaker was about to drive off, PC Taylor reached in to stop him. Mr Whitaker twice lunged forward to bite him, he said.

After Mr Whitaker refused to get out of his car, PC Taylor said, he had warned him to calm down and do so, or he would spray him with CS gas. But Mr Whitaker became more aggressive. PC Taylor said that he had then sprayed him twice in the face from about a yard away.

Mr Whitaker received hospital treatment for the damage to his eyes. A charge against him of insulting behaviour was dropped.

PC Taylor's trial continues.



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# Judge joins in attack on the £1m-a-year QCs

A SENIOR judge last night fuelled the row over fees charged by top barristers with a powerful attack on the "extravagant" fees of some Queen's Counsel.

**Frances Gibb reports on the concern in the High Court that barristers' fees are 'extravagant'**

Mr Justice Lightman said that there was an element of truth in the public view that the granting of silk constituted a "licence to print money". It is undoubtedly the occasion and pretext for a mark-up in fees. He also accused barristers' clerks of agreeing a going rate or price-fixing between their different sets of chambers.

Mr Justice Lightman said that the High Court judge said: "It is not unusual today to find briefs marked at £100,000 and a number of leaders regularly charge a brief fee of £350,000 and more and refreshers of £2,000 a day and more."

The quality of counsel did have an effect on the advocacy of someone's cause and could affect its outcome. That was why, he said, those fees were paid. But the judge added: "It must be a matter of grave concern if leaders of the first rank charge fees beyond the range reasonably affordable by ordinary litigants, but fees which their wealthy and powerful opponents can afford. There is then no equality before the law."



Lightman: said that public view had element of truth

Under this, the barristers' fees were paid out of public funds and allowed on taxation (assessment by court officials). "Considerations of economy may suggest that there is no public interest in granting a special status which encourages charging larger fees. Silks also had privileges such as sitting in court two rows in front of junior barristers, he said. This gave litigants the impression that they were closer to the "ear" of the judge and that their clients had an unfair advantage.

# Silks earn my salary in two days, says solicitor

By Our Legal Correspondent

A SOLICITOR said yesterday that some QCs earned as much in two days from legal aid alone as he was paid in a year.

man would not comment on the row over the four QCs whose bills are to be scrutinised, but said that the society had consistently urged that the silks system should be reviewed.

Girish Thanki, a partner in a legal aid firm at King's Cross, London, is involved in one of the cases in which QCs' fees are to be reviewed by five law lords. He said that last year his profits were £60,000, of which he took home £40,000 and ploughed the rest back into the firm.

One of the most senior judges in Britain, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, will lead the panel of five law lords that will inquire into the level of barristers' criminal legal aid fees later this month.

"I am quite happy to be compared with a GP, although unlike them we pay our own practice overheads," he said. "But we provide value for money for disadvantaged people in the community, often illiterate, in areas of work such as prison law, criminal defence, inquests and civil actions against the police."

It "galled" him that QCs could earn so much, enabling the Lord Chancellor "to lump us all together and call us all fat cats". The fees submitted by the four QCs — Christopher Salton, Richard Henriques, Michael Mansfield and Peter Feinberg — were for two appeals in the House of Lords lasting two to three days. One QC and his junior submitted a joint bill for about £61,000, excluding VAT.

Mansfield: one of four QCs in fees scrutiny

There was intense suspicion at the Bar yesterday over the timing of the inquiry, which is unprecedented and chimes with the Lord Chancellor's stated policy to curb "fat cat" fees. One barrister said: "This seems to be a very convenient way of enabling the Lord Chancellor to pass the hot issue of fees to the judges. But the whole question of legal aid levels and the criteria for fees charged is not a question for the law lords — it is a political question." Most barristers would not speak openly for fear of offending the law lords in advance of the hearing. But they believe the story had been leaked from Westminster because of its political overtones. Mr Davies denied yesterday that Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, or his department had anything to do with the fees inquiry. He said he had been prompted to ask the law lords for guidance because of the level of the fees charged and the rise in such fees in recent years. Mr Salton said yesterday that he would be happy to submit details of hours worked and let officials work out the appropriate fee, but that was not allowed. It is understood that his bill in a miscarriage of justice case that changed the law on joint criminal enterprise was £33,000, which he agreed to cut to £23,000.

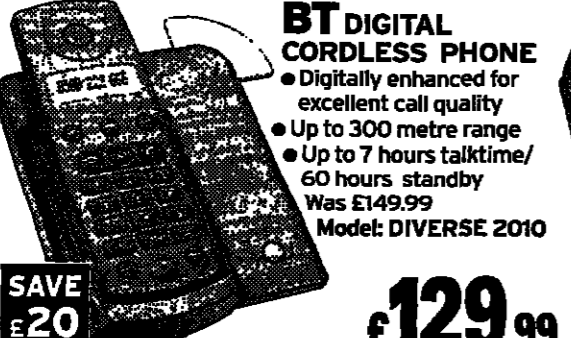
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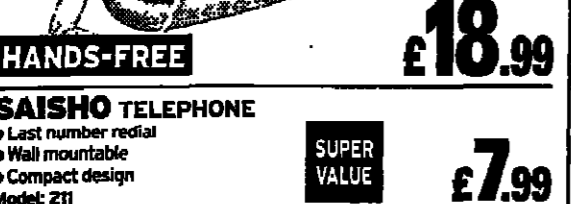
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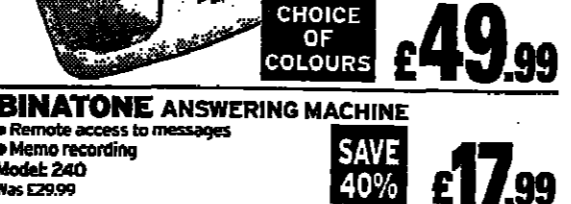
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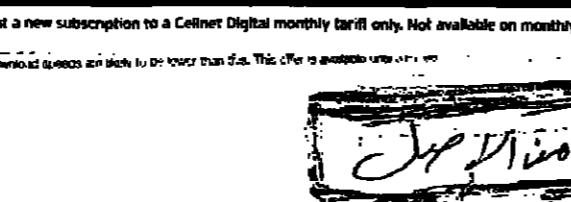
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**The Link**

# Thousands more may die from CJD in 30 years

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE possibility that thousands of people might die from the human form of "mad cow" disease still not be ruled out, scientists told the BSE inquiry yesterday.

Because of uncertainty about the incubation period for the disease, some people infected in the late 1980s or early 1990s might not fall ill for another 30 years, they said. Simon Cousens, an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "At the moment it is really not possible to say whether there might be a few dozen cases or many thousands."

There have been 25 deaths from new-variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), which is thought to have been caused by eating contaminated beef. One other suspected victim is still alive.

Mr Cousens was giving evidence to the inquiry with Robert Will, director of the National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, and James Ironside, a neuropathologist with the unit. Dr Will said that one of the best models for studying the likely course of new-variant CJD was the *kuru* epidemic among the Fore tribes of Papua New Guinea, where a local version of CJD was spread through a funeral ritual at which mourners ate the brains of their dead relatives. The incubation period for *kuru* could be as short as 4½ years or more than 30 years, Dr Will said.

Public exposure to BSE in infected meat products could have begun as early as 1983 and lasted into the early 1990s, by which time no more infected material should have been getting into the food chain.

Dr Will said there was now "very powerful evidence" that new-variant CJD was caused by BSE, with which it shared distinct neuropathological and other features. But there was still no clear information on what kind of food products were to blame. Dr Will said. He believed that spinal cord tissue contained in "mechanically recovered meat" — meat stripped from the bones of the carcass — was likely to have been the main cause of infection.

This material is thought to have been used in cheap hamburgers, sausages and meat pies in the 1980s, but Dr Will said research was hampered by a lack of reliable information on how much was used and in what products.

Mr Cousens told the inquiry that he was not persuaded that the relatively young age of victims of new-variant CJD could be explained by a higher consumption of such food.

# 'Lost uranium never existed'

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

THE head of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority yesterday played down its report that enough highly enriched uranium to make a dozen atomic bombs went missing from the Dounreay nuclear plant in the 1960s.

John McEwan said that the 375lb of uranium listed as "material unaccounted for" probably never existed, and the discrepancy may have come about because stocks were overestimated. Anti-nuclear campaigners have called for an investigation.

According to the report by scientists from the agency, information about the disappearance of the uranium was suppressed until this week. Morris Grant, communications manager at Dounreay, said amounts of uranium could have been miscalculated: "During the later 1960s, the techniques available did not allow precise estimates."

However, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, claimed that the plant had "serious problems". He said: "Six weeks ago Government ministers claimed that Dounreay was the 'safest place in the world' to store nuclear materials. That claim lies in tatters in the face of the revelations about a plant in which all processing and reprocessing work has now been forced to shut."

Scientists are investigating 16,000 consignments of waste tipped into the plant's 213ft shaft in the past 18 years. In the Commons, Tony Blair accused the SNP of behaving with "utter irresponsibility". The Prime Minister said: "As for allegations about the supposedly missing uranium, this is actually based on a misinterpretation of 30-year-old records which are far from complete by modern standards."

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# Sister act gives family double top in charts



The three children: "They would not sing as kids"

Twins in the latest girl band set a track record by joining brother at No 1, reports Audrey Magee

A FAMILY from Dublin celebrated a rare double yesterday with two daughters topping the singles chart and a son with a No 1 album.

Fans rang their two-up, two-down council house from around the world, hoping to talk to twins Keavy and Edele Lynch of the girl band B\*Witched and Shane Lynch of Boyzone after B\*Witched's first single, *C'est la Vie*, went straight to No 1. Boyzone's third album, *Where We Belong*, is also at No 1.

The double success puts the Lynchs ahead of pop families such as the Osmonds and Jacksons. The only family to have a double number one are Paul McCartney and his brother, Mike McGear, in 1968. McCartney was top of the album charts with the Beatles' *White Album*, while McGear topped the singles with Scafield's *Lily the Pink*.

The Lynch girls are also the first Irish group to go straight to No 1 in the British charts and the seventh band to hit No 1 with a debut single. "We are so excited and Shane is even more excited for us than he was about his own No 1," Keavy Edele, 18, said.

Their mother, Noleen, said: "Waiting for the charts to come out was awful. I couldn't sleep or eat for days. We have been celebrating since Sunday."

The family's house in Donaghmede has been overrun with visitors. Girl fans of Shane Lynch are now joined by boys looking for Keavy and Edele. Fans from Sydney and Tokyo phone in the middle of the night to sing love songs to Shane or plead with the girls for dates.

Mrs Lynch cannot explain her children's success. Her husband, Brendan, is a mechanic and heavy metal fan; she is a housewife and former amateur ballerina. The only real musical influence is the children's grandfather, who taught the fiddle and regularly played for his six Lynch grandchildren.

"They were all always able to sing, but they preferred dancing. They did the usual thing of school and church choirs, but no lessons and under no circumstances would they sing in public as kids," Mrs Lynch said.

The twins were inspired by their brother's success with Boyzone, and two years ago set about trying to recruit their own band. Keavy found Sinead O'Carroll while working as a part-time mechanic and the fourth member, Lind-



B\*Witched: Edele, far left, and Keavy Lynch, second right, follow the success of their brother Shane, below

say Armaou, at a kick-boxing class.

They struggled with a decrepit tape recorder for a year until they were given a slot on Irish television and a recording contract with Sony. "Tomorrow they make their first appearance on *Top of the Pops*."

"We always dreamt of being on *Top of the Pops* but never imagined that we would be there as No 1," Edele said. Their song is a combination of pop and soul with an Irish jig in the middle. Mrs Lynch

rejected comparisons with the Spice Girls. "The Spice Girls are for older people. B\*Witched are more like the girls next door and don't really go in for that showing your whatever."

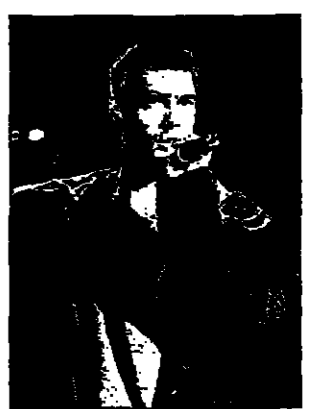
Two of the other three Lynch children are also singing and dancing. Tara, 24, is in a female band, Fab, struggling for recognition, while the youngest, 15-year-old Naomi, came second in last month's European dance championships in Bristol.

Alison, 23, is working for a

computer company in Boston and is the only child not involved in arts.

But Mrs Lynch says she now finds life lonely at home. Her three chart-toppers have moved to London, leaving her with only one of her six children in the house.

"They call every day from London, but it is very quiet. I'm thinking of putting a sign on the door to say 'Kids wanted' and bring some noise back into the house," she said.



Arts, page 37

## Cold? You should have been here in 1601

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

ANY complaints about the weather paled yesterday with the discovery of the worst summer of the past 600 years.

A study of tree rings has singled out 1601 as the worst, caused by the eruption of the volcano Huaynaputina in Peru in February 1600. It hurled almost ten cubic kilometres of molten rock into the atmosphere, leaving traces thousands of miles away in polar ice cores.

The analysis, by teams from Britain, Switzerland and America, shows that the eruption was far greater than previously believed. Bad weather at the start of the 17th century was already known from contemporary accounts in Italy, Scandinavia and Britain, where *The Annals of England Increased and Continued until this Present Year* said: "The month of June was very cold, frosts every morning."

Keith Briffa, of the University of East Anglia, and colleagues looked at tree ring data, noting how poor growth was correlated with volcanic eruptions. Many such links are known — 1816, known as "the year without a summer", has been linked to the eruption of Tambora in Indonesia in April 1815. But 1601 was worse by an average of 0.3C, the team led by Dr Shanaka de Silva, of Indiana State University, reports in *Nature*.

Forecast, page 26

## BBC apologises for libelling age-cream firm

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC has apologised and paid undisclosed damages for libel to the distributor of an anti-ageing cream for alleging that the company concealed from researchers its intention to publicise the results of clinical trials it was funding.

The cream, sold as Servital, was tested in 1995 at Guy's Hospital, London, on a high frequency ultrasound machine designed to measure skin thickness. The machine was developed by Stephen Young, a physicist at the hospital, who had obtained funding from Syence, distributors of the cream.

He used the machine to test how use of the cream on volunteers increased the thickness of their skin. The results, published in December 1996, demonstrated that Servital produced a significant thickening of the skin and the product was relaunched with presentations showing it had been proved to work by scientific tests at Guy's Hospital.

The widely reported claims led the BBC *Watchdog* programme to ask the hospital if it could carry out tests comparing Servital with other creams. These were done by Mr Young using the same machine that tested Servital and it was found that a range of moisturising creams had equally good results.

In a programme, broadcast in January 1997, *Watchdog* said the tests showed Servital was little different from other comparable creams. How-

ever, the programme also said Mr Young told it that the Servital trial had been done only to test his machine and that Syence had selected the volunteers.

He also suggested that the company had concealed from him and his colleagues the full nature of the use they intended to make of the trial results.

Publication of these allegations, which were repeated in a press release, was made by the BBC in good faith on the basis of the information supplied. Sophie Williams, a solicitor for the BBC, told Mr Justice Popplewell in the High Court. She said the BBC now accepted that the allegations were unfounded, and had apologised and agreed to pay the company damages and their legal costs.

Ian White, a consultant at the Institute of Dermatology at St Thomas's Hospital, London, said all anti-ageing lotions were varieties of moisturising creams, which were essentially oil in water. "If you put it on the skin and try it out on measuring instruments you will find that the skin thickens. It is the same effect you get if you soak a dried pea. It puffs out and smoothes out the wrinkles. That helps reduce the visible signs of age but the effects are transient."

"If you use glycerine in rose water you can get a 30 per cent increase in the thickness of the skin. It lasts as well as many creams and costs only 2p."

## Saving the Earth could be trickier than we thought

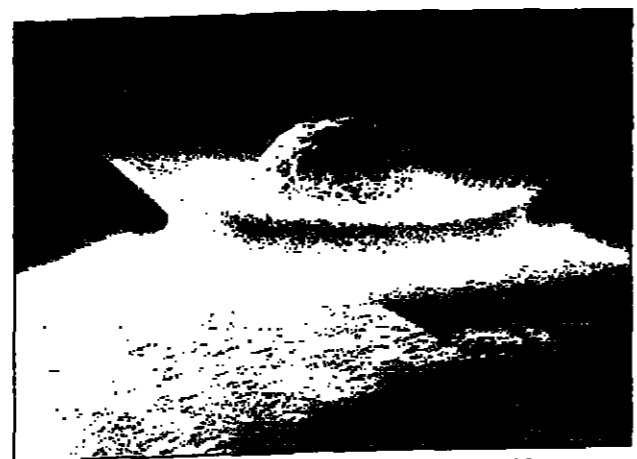
By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

SAVING the Earth from being hit by an asteroid may be harder than believed — although anyone who has seen the film *Deep Impact* might believe that it was hard enough.

Some asteroids are so loosely put together that they could soak up the blast of a nuclear explosion without much effect, according to calculations by Erik Asphaug, of the University of California in Santa Cruz, and colleagues.

The threat to Earth from asteroids is being taken seriously by some astronomers. A direct hit from a big asteroid could kill billions of people. Such an impact is said by many to have caused the demise of the dinosaurs 64 million years ago.

If spotted soon enough, asteroids could be shifted away from the Earth or broken up by crashing another object into them, or



Artist's impression of a catastrophic asteroid impact

near by. But, in an analysis in *Nature*, Dr Asphaug casts doubt on how easy this would be.

The nature of many asteroids, loosely assembled piles of rubble held together by gravity, means that they could dampen the shock waves from an explosion, limiting its effectiveness. "It's a lot more difficult to nudge these aster-

thought," Dr Asphaug said. "More work needs to be done before we can decide whether nuclear warheads provide a viable deterrent."

To determine the effects, astronomers need to know a lot more about asteroids' internal structure, he says. "In case we ever identify an asteroid or comet on a collision course, it would be best to



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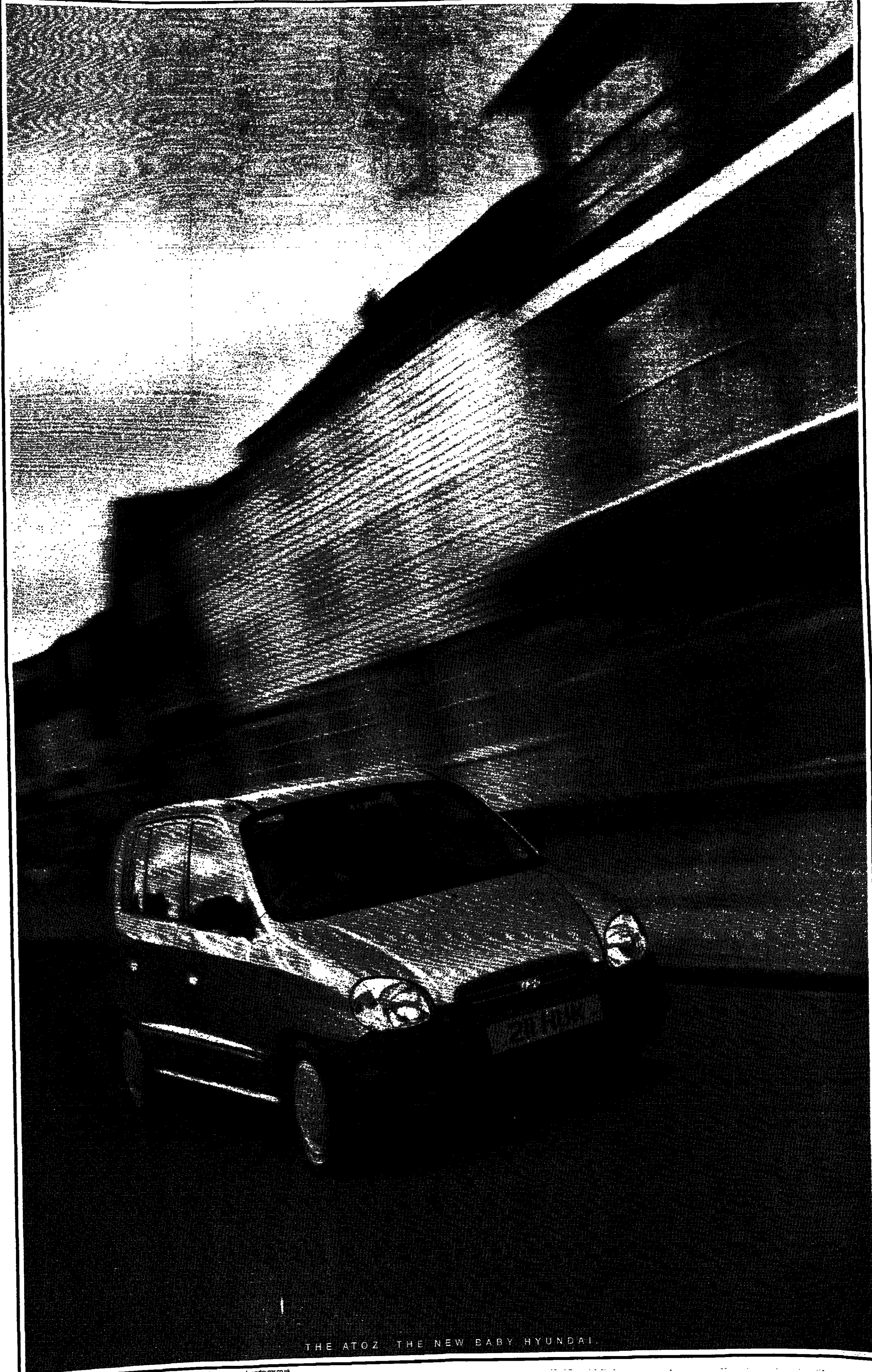
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# Tiananmen 'not a place for Clinton'

A CHINESE mother whose teenage son was killed in the Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989 says that President Clinton should not be coming to Beijing this month "because that is when the bloody suppression took place."



Hong Kong's support and the fall of Indonesia's Suharto have encouraged Chinese pro-democracy campaigners, writes James Pringle in Beijing

Ding Zilin, 61, a retired professor whose 17-year-old son was shot through the heart, said: "I have no objection to Mr Clinton's visit, but it is at an improper time and place. The place where President Clinton will be officially welcomed is the scene of the crime, a killing field. When Mr Clinton stands on the red carpet in Tiananmen, he stands at the wrong place."

Mrs Ding helps to comfort other families who lost sons and daughters at Tiananmen and gives them money. She said that she had been moved by pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong last weekend - protests that will culminate tonight with a candlelight vigil.

"It's the first time we have seen memorial activities with Hong Kong now as a part of China and it has great significance," she said. "The Hong Kong people did not forget the Tiananmen massacre and they have shown their deter-

mination to safeguard democracy. This is a great encouragement." Tight security will be in force in the Chinese capital on the ninth anniversary of the bloodshed today and dissidents are under heavy surveillance ahead of Mr Clinton's arrival on June 23. "This is a sensitive time and the authorities do not want trouble of any kind," a Western envoy said.

Mrs Ding, whose voice broke as she spoke of her late son, Jiang Jielan, said her home was guarded continually by Public Security Bureau men. She has long been a critic of the Beijing authorities. "What, after all, can you do to a mother whose son has been killed?" asked one diplomat. "There's no way to punish her more."

Asked if Beijing was willing to reconsider its verdict on the pro-democracy protests as a "counter-

revolutionary rebellion" - the verdict Mrs Ding wants reversed - Zhu Bangzao, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: "Our Government has drawn a clear and correct conclusion on this matter, and it is unnecessary to raise the topic again."

The Hong Kong demonstrations this year come at a particularly sensitive time for China as the Clinton visit approaches, and after the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests and the fall of President Suharto in Indonesia. Mr Clinton himself has said that China is on "the wrong side of history".

It is also a time of unease for many Chinese officials and workers because of millions of layoffs as Beijing seeks drastically to reduce its bloated bureaucracy and trim loss-making state-run industries. The fall of Mr Suharto has given Beijing a particular fright, analysts



Soldiers take up positions in Tiananmen Square yesterday as security is tightened for the anniversary of the army crackdown

say, and is a serious topic of conversation among Chinese here, although the Chinese media plays down the nature of the street protests that led to Mr Suharto's downfall.

"One cannot help draw unfortunate parallels of people taking to the streets and toppling a regime,"

one Western diplomat said. "In Indonesia, it's a nightmare scenario for Beijing. The fact that things like that can still happen cannot be reassuring for the leadership here."

Workers' protests are also worrying the cloistered leadership in their Zhongnanhai compound more than any possible student

unrest. A few posters have gone up in Beijing, the first since 1989, signed by workers saying that "everyone must act together to punish corruption and restore human rights".

Last night, Amnesty International called on President Jiang Zemin to release those still in prison for

their roles in the Tiananmen protest. Compensation plea: Tang Yuanjuan, a veteran of the 1989 democracy movement, wrote to President Jiang, demanding that the Government compensate families of those killed in Tiananmen Square. (AFP)

## White House set to fight Congress over China trade

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, facing his most embarrassing battle with Congress over relations with Beijing, announced yesterday he would renew most favoured nation trading status for China in the interests of American national security.

In a clear sign of concern over the issue in advance of his visit to Beijing on June 23, both Mr Clinton and Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, opened the Administration's annual clash with Republicans.

"This is an important example of how our engagement with China serves America's interests, stability in Asia, preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, combating international crime and drug trafficking, and protecting the environment," Mr Clinton said.

The renewal of normal trade relations, allowing China to ship goods to the United States at tariff rates set for other trading partners, has been complicated this year by a series of recent allegations involving the Administration and Beijing. Congress must vote on the trading status within 60 days.

The Justice Department is investigating a presidential waiver that allowed the trans-

fer of satellite technology to China by an American company with strong ties to the Democratic party.

Both the House and Senate are examining an illegal payment from a Chinese military officer to the Clinton-Gore campaign in 1996 and demanding that questions be answered on whether US foreign policy was sold to the highest bidder in return for large donations.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, recognising that the issue could resonate with voters during mid-term elections in November, has launched a scathing attack on the President for allegedly jeopardising national security.

The Republicans have already seized on Mr Clinton's visit to Beijing, initially scheduled to include a tour of Tiananmen Square, and the annual renewal of China's trade status as a means of attacking the White House.

David Dreier, a Californian Republican, and a dozen other Republicans in Congress who favour extending China's status, have sent a letter to Mr Clinton warning him that this year's vote will be very difficult because of the current controversies.

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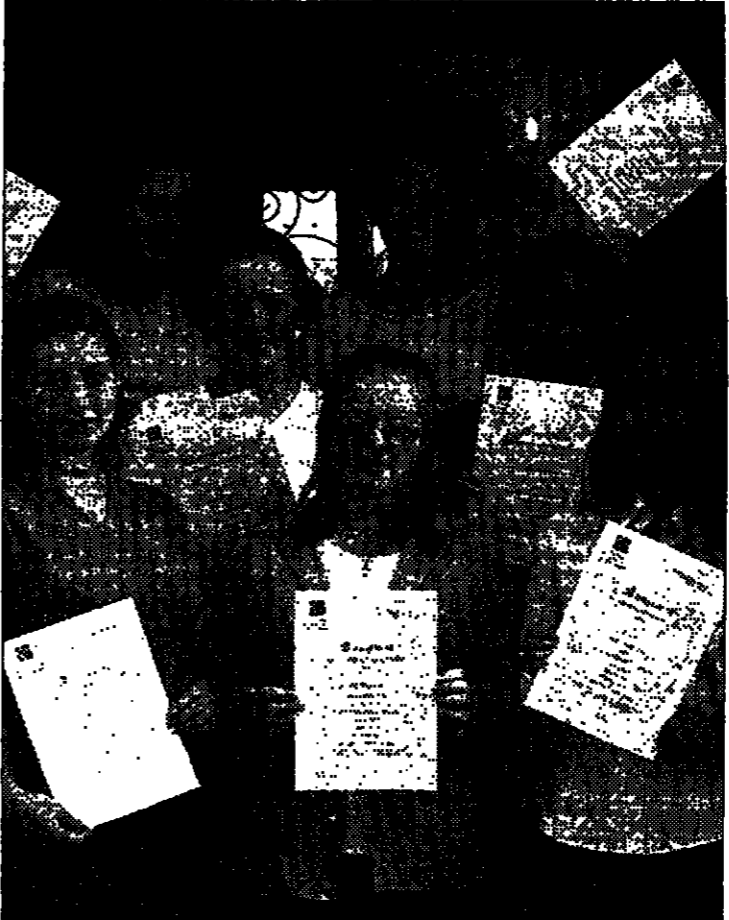
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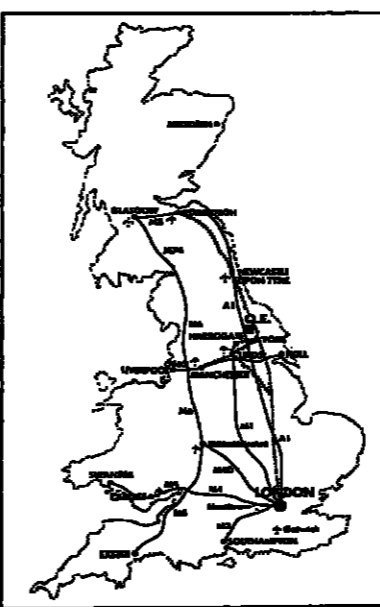
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SHAMU DHIMATOV / REUTERS



Kalam: 'visited Israel at least twice'

### Israelis 'helped India for 20 years'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and India have engaged in much more nuclear co-operation than previously disclosed, according to new information.

Co-operation in missile technology stretches back over two decades and repeated private exchanges between nuclear scientists from both countries were kept secret, according to an Indian source yesterday.

Hard evidence of Israeli-Indian nuclear co-operation was increased yesterday by disclosures in Tel Aviv newspapers that A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India's nuclear weapons hero, visited Israel at least twice in 1996 and last year.

The reports were accompanied by the disclosure that Israel's Chief of Staff cancelled a visit to India this week because of fears of "the wrong interpretation".

The close ties between Dr Kalam, head of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation, and his Israeli counterparts have suggested parallels with Israel's secret co-operation with South Africa in at least one nuclear test in the late 1970s. The claims of nuclear links with India have been denied by Israeli spokesmen.

Dr Kalam's team carried out the five Indian nuclear tests and announced that work was progressing on the next version of the Agni (Fire) missile, with a range of 1,550 miles, enough to hit Beijing.

Yesterday, Haaretz reported: "Dr Kalam visited Israel several times... while senior Israeli scientists went on reciprocal visits to India, according to a senior Indian scientist."

An emergency meeting of the five official nuclear powers in Geneva, to be chaired by China, will try to find a formula for defusing the tension between the two countries after last month's nuclear tests. The "big five" plan to press India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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Yesterday Mr Cook referred only obliquely to Kashmir when he said that the objective of today's meeting was "to help to reduce the tension in the sub-continent, to persuade India and Pakistan to sign up to the global regime against nuclear proliferation, and to promote dialogue between them on the issues that divide them".

Mr Tenet was urged to improve co-ordination among the 13 intelligence agencies under his control and push mid-level staff to take greater bureaucratic risks.

For his part, the CIA director would have to recognise its failures. "We did not get it right, period," he said. "I hope I could say that it will never again occur. But given the problems we face in the world, US intelligence is stretched, and we have to do the best we can."

The Jeremiah report will now be examined by Congress. Much of it reflects a broader criticism of intelligence voiced before. Last year the House Intelligence Committee said the services lacked "the analytical depth, breadth and expertise to monitor political, military and economic developments worldwide."

# CIA in disarray after nuclear tests debacle

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States intelligence community requires a complete overhaul, from its spies and analysts to the way it views the rest of the world, according to the author of a classified report on the failure of agencies to predict India's nuclear tests last month.

Intelligence gatherers thought the Indian Government would "behave as we behave" and abandon its campaign promises once in power. Admiral David Jeremiah, a former vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said.

Admiral Jeremiah, appointed by George Tenet, director of the CIA, to head an inquiry into what Congress described as a "colossal failure", said the debacle had revealed chronic flaws in US intelligence.

Most embarrassingly, he said the investigation had shown structural weaknesses in the CIA and its sister agencies that went far beyond unnoticed preparations for tests in the Rajasthan desert. It was said that analysts in charge of tracking the Indian programme did not expect the tests and only recognised the importance of unambiguous evidence of nuclear preparations from satellite pictures the next day.

The admiral said US spy satellites produce far too much information for overworked and inexperienced analysts at the various agencies around Washington. Senior intelligence officials were passive and failed to take charge, ignored clues around the test site and did not order subordinates to examine them.

The US, he said, had no agents in the top level of the new Hindu nationalist Government, failed to understand that India was driven by national pride, and believed assurances from Delhi that it would not carry out tests until a security review had been completed.

Admiral Jeremiah, a former commander of US forces in the Pacific, said the \$27 billion-a-year (£16.5 billion) intelligence community needed to be "scrubbed" from the top down, not to punish employees but to minimise the chance of any future catastrophe. He described a kind of intellectual laziness that affected analysts. Outside experts should be invited to analyse big events in an attempt to grasp the often un-American ways of the rest of the world.

"Intelligence must be much more aggressive in thinking through how the other guy thought," he said. "... You fall into a pattern and you start to expect things to happen... you need to have a contrary view."

Mr Tenet was urged to improve co-ordination among the 13 intelligence agencies under his control and push mid-level staff to take greater bureaucratic risks.

For his part, the CIA director would have to recognise its failures. "We did not get it right, period," he said. "I hope I could say that it will never again occur. But given the problems we face in the world, US intelligence is stretched, and we have to do the best we can."

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For the CIA, however, the admiral's remarks are particularly damaging. The agency has been consumed with problems during President Clinton's Administration, lambasted for its handling of the Aldrich Ames case, in which a counter-intelligence officer was found to have spied for Moscow for nearly a decade, and desperate to find a post-Cold War role.

Mr Tenet was appointed as director last year after Anthony Lake, the former National Security Adviser, became embroiled in campaign fundraising controversies and was forced to withdraw his nomination.

Beijing, President Jiang Zemin pledged that China would not restart its nuclear programme, and accused India of "targeting" China with its nuclear tests. (AFP)

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Mary-Claire Reilly, a Red Cross worker from New Zealand, comforts an Afghan quake victim yesterday before the woman was flown out from a stricken village. Women generally cannot be seen by a male doctor

## Cook seeks joint response

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

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## Rain dampens quake relief efforts

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

RAIN soaked the earthquake zone in northeast Afghanistan yesterday, adding to the misery of tens of thousands of people living in makeshift shelters after the destruction of their homes.

The United Nations issued another international appeal for helicopters and aviation fuel, desperately needed to reach scores of villages in the mountains. Many people have had nothing to eat since Saturday's quake because food stocks are buried under tons of rubble or landslides.

Many devastated villages have yet to be reached because of the lack of helicopters. Thousands of injured have received no medical attention. The death toll is probably about 5,000, higher than originally estimated. At least 60 villages

were totally or largely destroyed. Wells have been destroyed and streams contaminated by landslides, leaving a shortage of drinking water. The rain will at least ease one crisis.

Private aid agencies are criticising the UN for failing to deliver adequate numbers of helicopters, making it impossible to get tents, medicines, food and blankets to the homeless. The weather is mild, unlike in February when an earthquake in much the same area struck during freezing conditions and blizzards. Many died from the elements before help arrived several days later.

The terrain is impossible to cross except on foot or by donkey and horse. Most of the affected area is a short hop away by helicopter from Faizabad, the main centre of rescue operations, but days away overland. Many will die from their injuries before help arrives. There

are no local facilities capable of providing more than token assistance without international intervention to solve the transport crisis, the death toll will continue to soar.

Relief supplies are plentiful: many were stockpiled within Afghanistan and in neighbouring Pakistan after February's earthquake, but the UN is running three helicopters.

Some shattered villages cannot be reached even by helicopter because they cling to hillsides. It is often difficult for pilots to find a safe landing place in such a mountainous region, and it may be weeks before the remotest villages get outside help, if they get it at all.

Most injuries are fractures. Many people also suffered burns because they were cooking or keeping warm by open fires in their mud huts when the earthquake struck.

## Solzhenitsyn speaks out, but few are listening

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A NEW book by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the former political prisoner, Nobel prizewinner and self-appointed conscience of the Russian nation, goes on sale today, 26 years after the publication of his ground-breaking

novel on Soviet labour camp life. A *Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

Mr Solzhenitsyn, 79, who returned to Russia from 20 years in exile four years ago, continues to be respected in intellectual circles. However, his repeated indictments of post-Soviet Russian society in newspaper articles, essays and the occasional television

interview are largely ignored. Now that he is free to say what he likes about his country, few want to know.

It is a point that even his publishers have acknowledged. The latest work, *Russia in Collapse*, has been limited to an initial print run of 5,000 copies, although there are plans to bring out a further 10,000 by the end of the month.

Extracts published in Russian newspapers show that it will be far from light reading: a series of essays on the ills of Russia and a rant against declining moral standards, the loss of patriotism and the Government's failures on crime, corruption and poverty.

Antole Kaletsky, page 22

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# Apartheid killer accuses Botha



Sam Kiley in George sees the man called 'Prime Evil' claim his former leader sanctioned the bombing of opponents

EUGENE DE KOCK, the death squad leader dubbed Prime Evil by his colleagues, yesterday came face to face with P. W. Botha, his master and former President, denouncing him as a coward and further implicating him in major acts of terrorism against political opponents.

De Kock, 49, who is serving 212 years for a double murder and fraud, was asked during Mr Botha's trial for contempt of court how he felt towards his political bosses as he faced two centuries behind bars. Shaking with anger, the man who took scores, perhaps hundreds, of lives during more than 20 years in the police force and in battles with "terrorists" in Namibia, launched into a tirade of

**They want to eat lamb but not to see the blood and guts**

contempt for the National Party, headed for much of his career by Mr Botha. The former President, charged with contempt of court for refusing to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's hearings into the State Security Council, sat

stony-faced as de Kock, a fellow Afrikaner, spat out a speech he had clearly been preparing for some time.

"I do feel that myself and others in the security forces, the police, the army, special forces, have been sold out by cowardly politicians in the National Party who want to eat lamb but not to see the blood and guts. They are cowards and will remain that as they do not have the moral courage to admit what they did," de Kock said.

He told the court that after he bombed the offices of the African National Congress in London in 1981, he had been decorated with the Police Star for Outstanding Service, an award that was usually only given to generals and was only ever issued by the President.

He also told how he had been ordered to bomb the headquarters of the Congress of South African Trades Unions in 1987. "I asked how far up the order had come from because this was a major act of terrorism and I wanted to ensure we had enough political cover," de Kock said. He went on to say that Mr Botha had indicated to Brigadier William Schoon that he had become irritated when the operation took some time to plan.

"I told him that if P. W. Botha wants to blow up the building, if he feels he can do it better, he can do it himself," said de Kock, who has become a martyr to the thousands of former police officers and soldiers who committed crimes for their political masters in the name of apartheid. "We did the fighting and we are proud of that. The politicians have no pride. I, a lowly colonel, will take responsibility for all actions by members of the South African Police and other security services taken within

the framework of incitement and goading for the work and fatherland.

"They [the politicians] looked after only a tiny clique of 5 per cent of Afrikaners," he added, in a bid to reduce Mr Botha's own stand against the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has won support among white working-class rightwingers.

Mr Botha's lawyers have argued that minutes from the State Security Council showing that security officials had taken decisions to "neutralise", "eliminate" and "destroy" did not necessarily mean "kill". De Kock dismissed the claim. "It means killing. If you want to neutralise someone, it doesn't mean you take them to a restaurant, you kill them."



Eugene de Kock, who called P. W. Botha, right, a coward yesterday. The former President is seen leaving court with his daughter, Elanza Maritz

Asked by Bruce Morrison, the prosecutor, if the Government had disapproved of such actions, de Kock replied: "No, they encouraged it."

Later, Archbishop Desmond Tutu told the court how he had been criticised for using "kid gloves" in trying to persuade Mr Botha, who claims he would be humiliated at the hearing, to appear before the commission. "Appearing in court fills me with deep revulsion and distaste. Out of deep compassion I tried to reach out to Mr Botha," he

said. "We were willing to supply him with the questions we wanted to ask him in advance. That is something we have not allowed anyone else. He could have appeared in camera and I instructed my staff that any sign of disrespect shown him, and they would be dismissed." [Cape Town: Police have arrested two white soldiers, who are believed to have links with the Far Right, after a spate of robberies of military equipment. Further arrests are expected. (AFP)]



## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Jakarta deaths 'far exceed army figure'

Jakarta: Indonesia's official human rights body said that 1,188 people were killed in rioting in Jakarta last month, more than double the death toll given by the armed forces. The National Commission on Human Rights said that women were raped and thousands of shops, offices and vehicles were burnt. The commission blamed the violence on socio-cultural divisions created by government policies, a slow response by security forces and provocation by groups it did not name. President Habibie, who took power after President Suharto resigned on May 21, said that Indonesia would be in a position to elect a new president and vice-president by the end of next year and did not rule out standing again. (Reuters)

### Iran's elite corps bombed

Dubai: Iran said "terrorists" bombed the Revolutionary Guards' Tehran headquarters hours after an explosion at an Islamic revolutionary court killed three people and injured six. Tehran radio said the second blast on Tuesday night caused some damage. Responsibility for the fatal bombing has been claimed by Mujahidin Khalq, the Iraq-based Iranian rebel group, in retaliation for the killing of four of its members in October. (Reuters)

### Imelda Marcos may go free

Manila: The Philippines Government urged the Supreme Court to set aside a 12-year jail term imposed on Imelda Marcos, the former President's widow, and acquit her of corruption charges. Marcos's opponents denounced the action, calling it a step towards the political rehabilitation of a family whose rule became synonymous with plunder. An anti-corruption court convicted her in 1993. (Reuters)

### Rebels kill bus passengers

Tunceli, Turkey: Kurdish rebels stopped a minibus near here and killed nine passengers with automatic gunfire, the Anatolia news agency said. The guerrillas, fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey, often target civilians, especially when under pressure from the military. Two passengers were wounded. The rebels fled before troops reached the scene. (AP)

### Beatles artist jailed over tax

New York: Peter Max, the German-born psychedelic artist who created the images for the Beatles' film *Yellow Submarine*, has been sentenced to two months in prison for tax evasion, prosecutors said. Max, 60, was also ordered to pay a \$30,000 (£18,300) fine and back taxes and carry out 800 hours of community service. He was said to have concealed \$714,000 in income from art sales. (AFP)

### Where the grass is greener

Auckland: Cannabis might exceed dairying as a cash crop in New Zealand's Northland province, according to a study by the University of Auckland. It said the street value of cannabis seized each year by the police, probably less than half of the annual crop, was between NZ\$140 million and NZ\$700 million (£45 million and £225 million). (Reuters)

# Fresh conflict erupts in Horn of Africa



An Eritrean soldier back from the front

FROM ALEXANDER LAST IN ZALAMBESSA ON THE ERITREAN-ETHIOPIAN BORDER

HEAVY fighting erupted yesterday between Ethiopian and Eritrean troops battling for control of territory on their border in the Horn of Africa, witnesses said.

An artillery and mortar battle began at dawn in the town of Zalambessa, about 100 miles southwest of Eritrean capital Asmara. Eritrean forces were seen moving rapidly towards the town.

Eritrea confirmed the fighting and accused its neighbour of armed invasion. "This attack represents a new and dangerous escalation of the crisis between Eritrea and Ethiopia," a Foreign Ministry statement said. Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry, in turn, accused Eritrea of starting the battle.

The Pope appealed for peace but the United States — an ally of both belligerents — said that the conflict could widen.

The Eritrean Foreign Ministry said: "The Ethiopian Army has employed tanks and heavy artillery in the attack." It added: "Unfortunately, the Ethiopian Government persists in its intransigent position of launching a full-scale war unless Eritrea

withdraws unconditionally from territories that are indisputably Eritrean."

By contrast, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement said that "aggression carried out by Eritrea with tanks and heavy weapons is now public knowledge" and the ministry accused its neighbour of trying to "hoodwink the international community".

Earlier, Ethiopian state media reported the execution of an Eritrean car salesman, convicted of murdering an Ethiopian war hero in an Addis Ababa hotel in 1996. Diplomats feared the execution was likely to damage relations between the two countries still further.

Ethiopia and Eritrea enjoyed friendly relations until a border dispute turned violent early last month, with both sides accusing the other of invading.

Ethiopian authorities told diplomats on Tuesday that an Eritrean force attempted on Sunday to cross the border at Allitena, near the border town of Adigrat, and 85 miles east of Zalambessa.

"They said there was a small battle with a local Ethiopian militia who retreat-



ed. The Ethiopian Army then sent forces into the area and pushed the Eritreans back to their previous positions," one Western diplomat said.

The diplomat, quoting the official Ethiopian version, said the Eritreans suffered between 100 and 150 dead.

The Eritrean version of the clash was radically different. An Eritrean army commander said that Ethiopian troops had penetrated nearly 12 miles into Eritrean territory on Sunday. Eritrean forces were massing at the border and a constant stream of lorries carrying battle-hardened veterans of Eritrea's 30-year independence struggle as well as fuel and supplies had arrived in the area from

Asmara and other major towns.

Before yesterday's news, the American Government called on the two countries to exercise the utmost restraint.

Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa said yesterday that Susan Rice, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, had returned on Tuesday to the Ethiopian capital after visiting Asmara on Monday.

Ms Rice's first mediation shuttle last month was unsuccessful.

Eritrea is calling for the total demilitarisation of the border area. Ethiopia has said that it will not negotiate until Eritrean forces have left its territory.

The US Embassy in Addis Ababa has advised its citizens not to travel to northern Ethiopia. It said US Peace Corps volunteers working in the region have been recalled to the capital for the time being. (Reuters)

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# Shocked rescuers fall into deathly silence

British army doctors joined German medical teams giving first aid at the scene of yesterday's disaster, write Roger Boyes and Michael Evans

DAZED rescue workers, moving like robots through a field scattered with human limbs, tried yesterday to pull the last remaining passengers from the buckled wreckage of Germany's worst rail disaster in more than 50 years.

British army doctors joined the German teams in giving first aid to the hundreds of injured. The victims included two parties of schoolchildren. Hearses were jostling with ambulances in the approach roads as doctors sorted the dead from the barely living.

Bewildered children milled through the crowd of firemen and stretcher bearers looking for their parents. "This is the worst thing I've ever seen," Andreas Koch, an experienced fireman, said.

The Inter City Express high-speed train from Munich to Hamburg was on time yesterday as it approached Eschede in northern Germany.

In the surrounding potato fields the full force of the crash was visible. A hundred yards from the lead carriage, there were seats and items of luggage. Rail lines had been ripped up and had blown through the air like javelins landing far from the wreckage.

The concentrated carriages stood 30ft in the air like a macabre modernist sculpture. The police admit it is unlikely that anyone could have survived in the front of the train.

Most terrible of all were the body parts from people sucked through shattered windows. "We have a big identification problem," one doctor said. For hours after the crash no one dared to pick up remnants of

bodies. By mid-afternoon three men brought black rubbish bags and silently picked up the body parts. Few people — except the children — were in tears. The shock was too deep.

One of the first at the scene was Gerhard Bleyl from Eschede. "There was a deathly silence when we saw the first 20 men and women leaving the last carriages. Nobody said a thing because of the shock," he said.

Herr Bleyl, 50, a miner, who has seen pit accidents, said he and other rescuers could hang on to their composure "until we looked at the children crying for their mothers".

"Army medical teams from the local battalion in Celle are in there with their sleeves rolled up," Colonel Stewart Green, a British Army spokesman, said. The 7th Armoured Brigade in Hohn, some 30 miles away, was put on five-minute alert to supply heavy-lift equipment and field hospitals.

Two senior officers from the 7th Armoured Brigade also drove to the scene to offer specialist medical and engineering assistance.

A spokesman for the British Army in Germany said that the German emergency services, backed up by troops, were extremely well organised and did not appear to need extra help.

The spokesman said: "There were 16 helicopters and 100 ambulances at the scene and they seemed to have everything under control. Although our offer of assistance was not taken up, it remains open."

Yesterday a crane was trying to raise the front half of the train. Army transport planes backed up 16 rescue helicopters to airlift injured passengers to hospitals throughout north Germany. The death toll rose steadily throughout the afternoon and evening.

The train had a capacity of 759 passengers. There were enough uninjured to fill five buses which took them, after a brief medical examination, to their destinations. Relations and friends waiting at Hamburg railway station were told



Firemen gather on and around the wreckage of the train at Eschede in northern Germany as the grim search continued for any remaining rail passengers alive or dead

that there had been a "technical delay". When they discovered the truth they started to howl with rage.

Politicians hurried to the scene. Gerhard Schröder, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony and challenger to Helmut Kohl, said he was deeply, deeply sorry and that he felt for the relations of the dead. Politicians were considering whether to suspend the election campaign until the dead were buried.

This was the worst rail accident in Germany since June 1945 when a trainload of American tanks smashed into a train full of returning German prisoners of war; 102 died then.

Apart from the human tragedy, the crash represents a serious blow to the nation's prestige. The Inter City Express was a symbol of Germa-

ny's capacity to compete in the arena of modern high-technology projects.

Inside its open-plan carriages, passengers can watch video clips of Mr Bean on small television screens set into the back of seats. Computers flash the speed and distance from the nearest destination.

The attraction of the trains is their punctuality. Travelling at up to 170 mph they, unlike much of the country's rail network, are rarely late and can compete well with the internal airlines.

About 65,000 passengers a day are carried by the trains, accounting for 30 per cent of the rail network turnover.

Its closest rival is the French TGV and the two countries have been trying to capture important export markets in Asia and North America.

## High-speed rail travel adds grim chapter to roll-call of calamities

By MICHAEL BINYON

THE train crash in Germany yesterday was one of the worst in Europe since the Second World War, and added to the grim toll of a country that has one of the highest rail death rates in Europe.

Rail experts expressed immediate fears that the high speed of the German express was one reason for the large number of casualties. The huge forces unleashed by a crash at 125 mph point to the danger of high casualties in any accident involving Europe's high-speed trains.

The world's worst train crash was in India in 1981, when a train plunged off a bridge into the Bagmati River in Bihar, killing 800 passengers. Germany's previ-

ous worst postwar accident was in East Germany in 1967 when 94 people were killed at a rail junction near Magdeburg. A rail tank car filled with petrol struck a half-closed barrier and exploded, setting the train alight.

Britain's worst rail disaster happened at Quintinshill, near Gretna Green, in 1915 and killed 227 people. A crowded troop train hit a passenger train, with the loss of 215 officers and men and a further 12 in two other passenger trains. More than 200 people were seriously injured.

Britain's worst postwar accident was at Harrow in October 1952 when a train over-ran a red signal and collided with another, killing 112 people immediately. Another ten died from injuries. Five years later, a Southern Region suburban

train ran through a red signal in fog at St John's, Lewisham, bringing down a viaduct and killing a large number.

So far there have been relatively few accidents involving high speed trains. One of the most spectacular was the Southall crash in September last year, when a Great Western train hit a freight train, killing six people.

A series of accidents in Germany in the 1970s and 1980s delayed the introduction of Deutsche Bahn's high-speed trains. The Inter City Express, however, has been designed for safety and ran on the newly built north-south dedicated track. It was part of a fleet of 104 aerodynamic trains introduced in 1991 that have been tested at up to 250 mph, and normally travel at up to 175 mph.



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# New lawyers pave way for Lewinsky deal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY yesterday moved a significant step closer to testifying against President Clinton after she abruptly hired two of Washington's most prominent lawyers to replace her official spokesperson defence lawyer.

By retaining Jacob Stein and Plato Cacheris in place of William Ginsburg, who has represented her since allegations emerged of an 18-month sexual relationship with the President, Ms Lewinsky, 24, has placed her fate in the hands of the capital's most seasoned operators.

Evidence of the change was immediate. Where Mr Ginsburg last week had written a critical article that derided Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, the new team swiftly paid a courtesy call to prove their client's increasingly tattered relations with his office.

Lawyers involved in the case suggested privately that the departure of Mr Ginsburg, whose unorthodox tactics and media profile appeared to have undermined the former White House trainee's defence, could allow Ms Lewinsky to reach a compromise with Mr Starr and enable her to testify against the President in return for immunity from prosecution.

The move came as Mr Starr stepped up the pressure on the White House. The prosecutor, saying that Mr Clinton was under "serious criminal investigation", asked the Supreme Court for an expedited hearing on whether Secret Service officers should be compelled to testify in the Lewinsky case.

Having won a battle over executive privilege, Mr Starr has called Sidney Blumenthal, the Clinton strategist, to appear before the Washington grand jury today to discuss his conversations with the President's wife, Hillary. Mr Starr attacked the President's attempt to shield Bruce Lindsey, his closest confidante, under lawyer-client privilege, describing the effort — rejected by a lower court — as "save for Nixon, without parallel in the history of the republic".

The prosecutor is investigating whether either of the two top aides discussed the Lewinsky allegations or the most damaging claim that Mr Clinton later asked the trainee to lie about their affair.

Four months ago, Ms Lewinsky told Mr Starr's office that, in exchange for immunity, she was prepared to testify that she and Mr Clinton engaged in a sexual act. Negotiations broke down because she was silent on the issue of whether she would

implicate either Mr Clinton or his aides in a subsequent cover-up. Relations between the two sides deteriorated further, with increasingly vitriolic attacks on Mr Starr by Mr Ginsburg.

In an open letter to the prosecutor published by a California law journal last week, Mr Ginsburg also appeared to admit his client had sex with the President. "Congratulations, Mr Starr! As a result of your callous disregard for constitutional rights, you may have succeeded in unmasking a sexual relationship between two consenting adults," he wrote.

The appointment of the new legal team alters the tone of the relationship dramatically. Both men are far less outspoken, more aware of the political pressures, and less in awe of the main players.

Mr Stein was himself an independent counsel in 1984 when he investigated charges of financial impropriety against Edwin Meese, President Reagan's counsellor.

Mr Cacheris has represented an array of high-profile clients, including Aldrich Ames, the former CIA counter-intelligence officer, now serving a life sentence for espionage, and John Mitchell, Nixon's Attorney-General, convicted over Watergate.



Ethnic Albanian girls in Kosovo yesterday mourn relatives killed in Serb attacks. Nearly 1,500 refugees have fled into northern Albania

# Blair warns Milosevic of Nato intervention

BY PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR AND CHARLES BREMNER

TONY BLAIR warned President Milosevic of Yugoslavia that Nato would not tolerate an intensification of conflict in Kosovo as the alliance last night sent reconnaissance teams to Albania and Macedonia to prepare for a possible deployment of peacekeepers on the Kosovo frontier.

A Bosnia-style intervention in Kosovo is one option being considered by Britain and other countries as they

try to halt the spread of violence. "We don't believe we could afford to have a situation of disorder spreading in that part of the world and I think that is a clear enough message to Mr Milosevic," Mr Blair told the Commons. The Prime Minister said that the international community had acted with firmness in Bosnia and "we must make sure that we do the same again".

The Foreign Office admitted the situation had become a "matter for deep concern". The death toll in Kosovo is about 200 in the past three months and whole towns have been

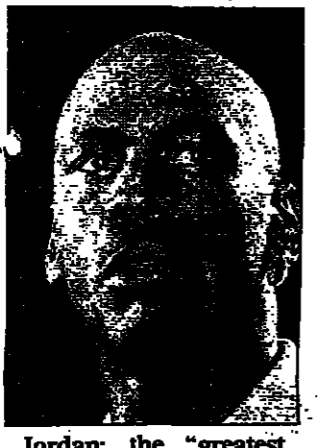
deserted by their fleeing inhabitants. The move by Nato ambassadors in Brussels to speed preparations for a possible big new force in the Balkans reflected the desire in Washington and West European capitals to deter Serbia from intensifying an offensive against Kosovo's ethnic Albanians which threatens to erupt into war.

Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy to the region, said: "In a worst-case scenario the war could spill over into the region and embroil some of its neighbours like Albania and Macedonia." That could, in turn, raise

tensions with Greece and Turkey, both Nato members. Mr Holbrooke said. Unlike the case of the Bosnian war, "this time around the United States is engaged early".

However, the Nato council agreed that the option of a preventive deployment of 7,000 to 23,000 troops in northern Albania, outlined last week by alliance ministers, would require extensive military and political planning. As well as the need for a clear strategy, the mountainous terrain along Albania's northern frontier posed special difficulties, officials said.

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# Basketball star nets fortune

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL JORDAN, arguably the greatest basketball player to have stepped on court, has had an impact on the world economy that is estimated to be worth more than \$10 billion (£6 billion).

The calculation is made by *Fortune* magazine, whose cover story next week is an analysis of "The Jordan Effect". The \$10 billion, generated over the 14 years since he

made his debut in the NBA, America's premier basketball league, is greater than the gross national product of such countries as Iceland, Costa Rica and Jordan.

According to *Fortune*, Jordan's impact on NBA ticket sales alone has been \$165.5 million and revenue from merchandising is valued at \$3.1 billion. On television revenues, his "share" is put at \$366 million.

In addition to his economic impact on the NBA, he is

responsible for about \$5.2 billion in sales of Nike's goods. He has generated \$230 million from his movie *Space Jam*; \$80 million from his sports video; \$15 million from his cologne, and \$10 million from his own brand of underwear. His endorsements, which range from McDonald's to Gatorade, are worth \$240 million. A *New Yorker* article recently described him as the "greatest corporate pitchman of all time".

# Singular snub for bilingual education

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIANS have overwhelmingly approved the abolition of the state's costly bilingual education system. The new law, which won 64 per cent of the vote in a referendum-style election, demands that nearly a million Spanish-speaking children take a one-year crash course in English and then sink or swim in mainstream schools.

Sponsored by a maverick

Silicon Valley millionaire, Proposition 227 is designed to end a system in which the children of Hispanic immigrants are taught most subjects in their own language while spending up to eight years learning English at taxpayers' expense.

Backers of the alternative claim that it will save \$400 million (£245 million) a year and help America's latest and least-educated wave of immigrants to be assimilated fully into American life as

previous generations of European immigrants were. It is likely to be copied in other states with large Hispanic populations, including Texas, Arizona and New York.

Ron Unz, the software tycoon with a Russian mother who drafted the proposition, predicted as votes were being counted that they would mark "the beginning of the end of bilingual education in the US", a system he called a dismal failure. The initiative met fierce opposition from

teachers and Latino leaders who say it will wreck those bilingual education efforts that are working. But unlike recent Californian campaigns against illegal immigration, this one was backed strongly by voters of all races.

A *Los Angeles Times* poll taken when Proposition 227 was first drafted indicated support from 84 per cent of Latino voters, whose children consistently score worst in examinations and have the highest school dropout rates.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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# A royal disease changed history



**Dr Thomas Stuttford on testicular cancer; blackwater fever; Paget's disease of the nipple; and a new medical aid**

**A** MORI poll commissioned by the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) shows that only one man in five in the United Kingdom thinks he knows much about testicular cancer. Conversely, 50 per cent feel they are adequately informed about heart disease, and nearly a third believe they are well informed on breast cancer. The ICR is launching a campaign this month to inform men about two male cancers: those of the testes and of the prostate.

Testicular cancer may have caused one of history's great constitutional controversies and started Henry VIII on his

nuptial adventures. The television series about Henry VIII, and Maria Perry's recent book *Sisters to the King*, the story of Margaret of Scotland and Mary of France, have raised the public's awareness of Henry's elder brother, Arthur, Prince of Wales. It was his diseased testes that precipitated the constitutional crisis, but whether they were destroyed by a cancer or by tuberculosis is uncertain.

Cancer of the testes can occur at any age but is the most common tumour among men aged between 24 and 35. It has been recorded in boys as young as 15 — about the age at which Arthur started to fall ill. Tuberculosis of the genitalia



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usually involves the epididymis, the convoluted tubes lying beside the testes. Even when I qualified, TB was the most frequent cause of chronic disease in the epididymis. Now rare, such disease is reappearing in countries plagued by drug-resistant TB. With kingship in view, Prince Arthur had been married to Catherine of Aragon. Henry was to claim that the

marriage had never been consummated, and that therefore he could legitimately marry his deceased brother's wife. Later he changed his mind and asserted that his brother's marriage had been consummated, hence his own marriage to Catherine had been illegal. Historians and doctors have argued about this and about Arthur's sexual prowess, or possible reasons for

lack of it, ever since. Catherine claimed that Prince Arthur had attacked poor Arthur's "singular parts" — a euphemism for his genitalia. Prince Arthur developed a severe cough from a "deadly corruption" which blocked his lungs. Did Arthur suffer from cancer of the testes and a growth which later spread to his lungs, or were his genital and his pulmonary diseases the result of TB? Either condition would have caused the night sweats and loss of weight.

Professor Tim Oliver of the Royal London & St Bartholomew's Hospital, an expert on testicular cancer, says: "Cancer of the testes has been diagnosed since Roman times because of surgery to produce

castrati for choirs. It can be associated with infertility, and the lack of a pregnancy in the marriage with Catherine is quoted as evidence that it was not consummated. Such cancers can also be associated with loss of libido." It is possible that if Prince Arthur did have a testicular cancer, he might have suffered from loss of desire and impotence. Equally, TB would have been likely to cause infertility. It would, however, have been less likely to have affected the libido until the Prince of Wales had become moribund.

Cancer of the testes is more common than it was in 1502. Its incidence has doubled in the past 20 years, so that now one man in 400 develops it.

## A peril past and present

MEMORIALS in many old British churches reveal details of the deaths of soldiers and sailors who have died in some far-off malarial corner from blackwater fever. Although the term summons up an image of our imperial past, it can still occur today.

Yet it was a surprise to her doctors when Mrs Sylvia Willis-Fleming, of Eastbourne, developed blackwater fever some years ago after a trip overseas. It is a rare complication of chronic falciparum malaria, the same type of malaria that can cause cerebral malaria. This is the potentially fatal complication in which a patient feels very cold, has intermittent high temperatures and a prominent headache before becoming delirious and comatose. Mrs Willis-Fleming became unconscious in hospital but after a rough few weeks, fully recovered.

In blackwater fever the red blood cells break down within the blood vessels and, having been passed in the urine, it turns it such a dark red that it appears black. Plasmodium falciparum is the most dreaded of the four species of parasite that cause human malaria.

Malaria prevention is no longer just about selecting the right drug when in an area where malaria is rife. This is still vital, but other measures are increasingly emphasised. These aim to stop the traveller from being bitten, and include mosquito repellents, long sleeves and trousers, frames over windows and nets over beds.

Malaria is a transitory danger to British travellers but all over the world there are people to whom the risk is constant and its death rate is measured in millions. This year, at the meeting of the G8 Summit in Birmingham, the Prime Minister promised the World Health Organisation £60 million for its work on the control of malaria.

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## Out of the shadows

DESPITE the blazing lights in the operating theatre that are as carefully positioned as any on a film set, some nooks and crannies are left in shadow. The surgeon is constantly calling for a light to be realigned, so he can obtain a better view of where he is cutting.

Mr Michael Lavelle, a consultant surgeon at the Princess Royal Hospital in Sussex, has invented a neat device that lights up the darkest recesses of the pelvis and other parts of the abdominal cavity. His invention combines a diathermy electrode (which cuts) with a fibre-optic light wand

(which illuminates). This means the area being dissected is always well-lit, and the light moves with the eyes and thoughts of the surgeon.

Although this device was initially designed for operating on cancer of the colon and rectum — an operation in which good illumination is essential to preserve the small nerves that contribute greatly to the patient's recovery — it has wide applications in a variety of surgical procedures.

A committee chaired by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons was so impressed by Mr Lavelle's invention that it recom-



Surgery: dark corners

mended he be awarded a Cutler's prize. Each year, the Master and Company of Cutlers acknowledges the most original and useful advance in the design of medical equipment.

## Eczema and the nipple

Sir James Paget started his medical career as a general practitioner in Great Yarmouth, where his father ran a business supplying the fleet. When he died in his eighties, he was Vice-Chancellor of London University, surgeon to Queen Victoria, a baronet, fellow of the Royal Society and had honorary degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin and a host of overseas universities. Many people know about Paget's disease of the bone, rather fewer of Paget's disease of the nipple, but at a dinner party after a Sussex wedding last week, they were talking of little else.

A local 93-year-old woman, "a great character", had noticed and ignored for two or three years eczema around one of her nipples. She had assumed that it was merely one of the penalties of old age. Mrs Carruthers (not her real name) finally sought the advice of her doctor who diagnosed Paget's disease of the nipple with an underlying cancer of the breast.

Mrs Carruthers was not the least bit dismayed by her diagnosis and, just to show her determination to continue life as normal, she prepared a steak and kidney pudding for a lunch party for 15 the day before she went into hospital to have a mastectomy. Within a week of her mastectomy she was back home, training her dog and dispensing, and drinking, whisky as hospitably as ever.

Paget was the first doctor to draw attention to the importance of eczema around the nipple, particularly when it occurs on one side only. It can be associated with a slow-growing carcinoma within a breast duct that has extended and

infiltrated the skin covering the nipple. Women, or men, also get ordinary eczema of the nipple but that always itches, is usually on both sides and is often associated with little blisters. Paget's disease doesn't clear with standard treatment for eczema: it is nearly always on one side only and it attacks women of 50 and older after the menopause. The rash of Paget's oozes, is inflamed and there is crusting but not usually any blistering. It doesn't always itch. In time the nipple itself becomes eroded as the disease spreads into the areola, the coloured skin around the nipple.

Ideally, the true nature of the eczema is noticed before there is a palpable lump and when the malignant cells are confined to the duct, but the treatment in either event is with a mastectomy. The sooner this is done the better, but the prognosis is usually good as the tumour is usually slow growing. There is every likelihood that Mrs Carruthers will be out with her Labrador on the shooting field in the autumn, not only autumn this year but for many years to come.

The breasts start, in embryological terms, as sweat glands that become modified very early in the unborn child's development. Paget's disease is not confined to breasts. He also described a very much rarer condition, Paget's disease of the penis, in which the same process can affect the skin. Since Paget's time, other clinicians have very occasionally seen extra-mammary Paget's disease in other parts of the groin and perianal area where similar tumours, and associated rashes, have started in the glands of the skin.

### Long and short of it

THIS is my first column to have been delivered electronically. This will save mistakes, including one in the Medicine Chest column about corticosteroids on Tuesday. Doubtless because of my mumbling, lisp-like voice, "growth retardation" appeared as "gross retardation". Readers may rest assured that there is only a minimal chance that a child's stature may be slightly restricted, and their intellect will be unaffected.

You are not alone — 14% of men suffer from impotence at age 50

What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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# Shoes - the greatest love of all

You don't have to be Imelda Marcos to know that one sure remedy for life's little catastrophes is a new pair of shoes, writes Jane Shilling

Once upon a time, there was a businessman called George Bruton who went, when he was pushing 60, to a village hop. And at the village hop he did what one traditionally goes to such events to do - he took a fancy to a younger woman, a Mrs Jean Hopkins, 53. They began stepping out. The affair went well. Mr Bruton was in love. "More than over shoes in love," as it says in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Since it does not have a happy ending, it is to be supposed that it has a moral. What might that moral be? Apart from the obvious one, that Lady Graham Moon who, in a slow season for news some years ago, wreaked an extremely public revenge on her faithless husband's cherished pinstripes and claret, has a great deal to answer for.

as we are supposed to. But secretly, our minds are elsewhere.

Preoccupied as they are with the important business of the world, men do not give much thought, on the whole, to women's shoes (unless they are cobblers, of course). They may dimly observe that when their sweetheart was young and fancy-free, she used to wear tight white stilettos down the disco which, as the evening wore on, she would rather sexily remove, because they pinched. And that, now they are married, she seems to have descended into shapeless flatties, ideal for doing the school run and standing at the kitchen table, baking iced

'She thought more of her shoes than she did of me'

history of relations between men and women, and women and their shoes, has a man noticed that a girl's relationship with the things she puts on her feet is far deeper, more intimate, more cherishing and satisfactory than her relationship with the thing she walked up the aisle on the arm of.

What they do not imagine (or didn't, until Mr Bruton lunged on our little secret), is that there are very few women in the land who do not have, in the dark at the back of the cupboard, a tottering tower of themselves in shoe boxes. All those lives we might have had - but

didn't quite - the gold strappy sandals that looked just like the ones Marie Helvin is holding in that Richard Young shot of her, skipping barefoot out the back entrance of Langan's after David Bailey's birthday party; the teetering, Adam and Eve sandals by Manolo Blahnik, with the single snakeskin strap coiling upwards from the ankle; the Christian Louboutin pumps, with scarlet soles and golden linings, like a super-sophisticated version of the curly toed slippers that little Black Sambo loved so much... really, you don't have to be Imelda Marcos to appreciate that the one sure remedy for any of life's little catastrophes, from a broken heart to a broken plate, is a new pair of shoes.

So what of Mrs Hopkins now? Last spotted leaving the court, she will have been heading, you can be perfectly sure, for the smartest shoe shop in town.



Marie Helvin cradles her shoes: "A girl's relationship with the things she puts on her feet is deep, intimate and cherishable"

## The wonder skin cream?

Open a woman's bathroom cabinet and you will be confronted with an armoury of weapons. Age-defying creams, firming serums, keramide capsules, tissue defences - these potions promise to help us to win the battle against wrinkledom.

Simply showed that massaging with the cream was more effective than massage alone. So the scientists could not say whether the same skin-thickening effect could be achieved with a cheaper product (Servital costs £31 for 30ml). And this is backed up by Dr Stephen Young, the scientist who led the study, who was quoted as saying: "Without comparison, it's impossible to say if this cream is better or worse than other products."

Shaama Massey, assistant editor of *Which?* magazine, is concerned, anti-ageing potions, Servital included, offer no advantage over cheaper moisturisers.



The "face-saver"

Sadly, despite the pseudo-scientific labels, hard science doesn't support our optimism. Or at least it didn't until a skin cream called Servital came along, which boasted impeccable scientific credentials. According to Guy's Hospital, women in their fifties who used Servital for 21 days had the thicker, plumped-up skin of women in their twenties.

Skin thickness was measured by bouncing sound waves off the face; the trial was noteworthy because, until then, skin characteristics could be measured only by removing a tissue sample. The Guy's results were reported in the *International Journal of Aesthetic and Restorative Surgery*.

Servital, available from selected department stores such as Harrods, rather than high street chemists, didn't come off too well. "Of the four women who used Servital, three reported no improvement and one said her lines got worse," Ms Massey says.

Ms Massey denies that the investigation was not valid. "Ageing is something that preys on every woman's mind, and this was a significant result," she says. "What we can say is that the women in our trial did not find that anti-ageing creams work better than normal moisturisers."

ANJANA AHUJA

## Swinging again, the singles at risk from dangerous liaisons

A tennis club dance in northern suburbia was the launching pad for my new life as a single woman. My partner and I had finally gone our separate ways earlier that day. I was 34 and had been half of a couple for the past 13 years.

### Enid Shelmerdine on unsafe sex and the newly unattached

"They believed they were not at risk from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections," says the HEA.

But according to the findings of the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, which questioned 19,000 people aged 25-44, they are very much at risk. Widowed, divorced or separated people - both men and women - most often admitted to having had two or more sexual partners in the past year. Of the men in that group, about 40 per cent reported having slept with two or more people in that time.

many people had their first sexual experience with the person they eventually married. Single people more often lived in the parental home, and finding somewhere private to have sex was difficult. The fear of pregnancy often acted as the most effective contraceptive at a time when Aids and HIV were unknown. To help to encourage the newly single to enjoy their sexual freedom safely, the HEA has even placed small ads in the personal columns of regional newspapers, so the newly single answering a "lonely hearts" plea can go on a blind date with their eyes open to the risks of unsafe sex.

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# Mr Hague is no Tory democrat

### Winston S. Churchill accuses the Conservatives of centralisation

Only now that the selection process for next year's elections to the European Parliament is under way is the full scale of the transfer of power from the grass roots to the party hierarchies becoming apparent. Not only are the European constituencies to be abolished from June next year, but with them a system of representative democracy that has served our country well for many centuries. The consequence is a massive concentration of power into the hands of the party hierarchies at national and regional level.

Traditionally, constituency associations provided a structure of devolved authority. These associations were largely autonomous and, not infrequently, fiercely independent. Often the party machines in London, seeking to engineer the return to Westminster of a favourite of the leadership, found themselves sharply rebuffed by a local association determined to make its own choice. This was a healthy system that guarded against the concentration of too much power at the centre.

The new system of proportional representation — trumpeted as "fairer" — in reality allows the party machines surreptitiously to grab a huge amount of power. While paying lip-service to the concept of devolution and, indeed, implementing it in the case of legislative power in Scotland and Wales, the parties are moving in the opposite direction. This is all the more surprising given that Britain's party selection procedures have been criticised in the past for having far too narrow a "selectorate" — a few tens of thousands of party activists throughout the land. In the United States the system of primaries involves a party "selectorate" of many millions. Now the situation in Britain is to become worse with a mere handful of party apparatchiks arrogating all powers of selection.

No doubt the Tories have done their best to cope with the Government's determination to move to a system of PR for European elections and to control directly the Labour Party from the centre. Nonetheless, in the case of the Conservatives a selection committee of just nine individuals, meeting in a backroom at Central Office, recently decided whose names should or should not be allowed to go before the regional selectors. Just 30 out of 127 Tory MPs defeated in last year's election had their names added to the 220-strong list of "approved" candidates. After 27 years representing a marginal Manchester constituency at Westminster (abolished by the Boundary Commission in 1997), I have found myself a victim of this procedure and, in common with the other *refuseniks*, denied both an interview and any right of appeal.

Many of those who successfully negotiated the first hurdle, fell at the second where a regional screening committee of about 20 senior elected

officers in 11 areas have the task of choosing — again without interview or appeal — the 20 or so names for a shortlist to be considered by a group of 50-70 chairmen of the Westminster and former European constituencies. Among those who fell at the second fence were Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor; Nicholas Budgen, the veteran Eurosceptic; Dame Angela Rumbold, a former Tory vice-chairman; and Sir Roger Moots.

At the final selection the turnout of the party faithful can be described only as miserable. In the West Midlands a mere 290 — less than 1 per cent of the party membership — were present. Furthermore, those selected were scarcely representative of the Eurosceptic leanings of either the leadership or the grass roots of the Tory party. William Hague evidently has much to learn from Tony Blair in ensuring that his party officials are "on message".

With the abolition of the Euro constituencies has gone the right to appeal directly to a local constituency association. This enabled many to secure election despite being blackballed by their party machine. Though not as yet publicly acknowledging the fact, the Tory party has imposed age criteria of 40 to 60 for those seeking inclusion in the "approved" list of European candidates (only one exception was made in the recent selection), and of 35 to 55 for Westminster. The latter would have ruled out my grandfather Winston Churchill in the 1930s. Pitt the Younger (elected at 21), not to mention Mr Hague, who entered the Commons in 1989 aged 27. It is a foolhardy decision which will deprive the party of much talent — something it can ill afford now.

### Churchill would have been too old, Hague too young

What this grabbing of power by the party machines should have passed largely unnoticed is perhaps a reflection of the supreme lack of interest much of the electorate has in Europe and the European Parliament. But it is not only in the European elections that the foundations of our electoral system are being threatened. The Prime Minister has appointed a commission headed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead to consider alternatives to the first-past-the-post system of election to Westminster. While it is unlikely that the Government would dare to abolish constituencies, a system of PR could be in place before the next general election, due by May 2002 at the latest. This could involve the creation of a new category of super-numerary MPs, who would owe their election not to an individual constituency but to being placed advantageously on a party list. All new candidates would have to pass the now highly centralised vetting procedure.

The main parties would do well to ponder whether such centralisation of power is in their own best interests or that of parliamentary democracy.



# My Moscow retreat

### Revisiting post-Soviet Russia prompts the question: crisis — what crisis?

This week I have been in Russia to visit a friend and investigate the possibly catastrophic economic crisis. It was my first trip to Russia for seven years. When I last went to Russia, in the waning days of the Gorbachev period, I found a country completely transformed from the Communist prison where I had been born 40 years before. How much more I wondered, had Russia changed after President Gorbachev?

Instead of rounding up the usual suspects — ministers and central bankers, foreign businessmen and academic experts, or even the standard robber barons of "new Russian" capitalism — I did something much more agreeable. I strolled the sunny streets of Moscow, looked around the shops, chatted to people in bus queues, got myself invited to parties and went to the opera. This pleasant but unorthodox form of research is not, of course, guaranteed to deliver accurate results. But then neither is the conventional economic analysis, which was last week predicting an Indonesian-style economic and political meltdown in Russia — a global geopolitical catastrophe that could be pre-empted only by another gargantuan Western loan to bail out Russia's greedy international bankers.

So, making due allowances for the random nature of my investigations, let me present three conclusions, backed not by the usual official comments and statistics, but by some personal vignettes.

My first conclusion is that, financially, Russia is far from an Asian-style collapse. With or without extra Western money, the Russian Government will stave off a devaluation that would undermine its one unquestionable economic achievement — the creation of a solid currency that could one day form the basis for a genuine market economy. One reason is that prices, even in the best shops of Moscow, are still quite low, as long as one avoids goods specifically imported for expatriates and the ubiquitous plutocrats known as "new Russians". Goods made in Russia (which, of course, are rarely bought by the Western analysts who complain that the rouble is "overvalued") are still dirt cheap. In one shop I saw excellent local strawberries selling for 20 roubles (roughly £2) a kilogram, while next to them strawberries from America were displayed at R112. Another reason for confidence may sound more perverse. Currency cri-

ses rarely get out of control unless a nation loses confidence in its own money. The Russians, however, never had much confidence to lose. When I talked to the prosperous middle-class Russians at a dinner party in the flat of Andrei Gromyko, the last true Soviet-era President (appropriately enough, now occupied by the Moscow representative of the International Monetary Fund), it became clear that Russians will not cause a crisis by selling their own currency. They do not have enough roubles to sell. Russians keep almost all their savings in dollars already. I

formed collective farms. Barter remains the main form of commerce in much of the country. And most industries are almost as far from genuine market principles as they were a decade ago.

Above all, corruption and bureaucracy remain as stifling and arbitrary today as they were in the Soviet days. Mr Yeltsin's attempt to disband the Communist Party in 1991 succeeded mainly in destroying the civil authority of the Russian State (which was in effect the same thing as the party). His erratic personality, cronyism and constitutional manipulations have fomented corruption and anarchy. Worse still, they have subverted the historic effort begun under Gorbachev to change Russia from a personal fiefdom into a law-governed State. There is a close connection between the Government's inability to collect taxes, which everyone considers to be the greatest economic problem in Russia today, and Mr Yeltsin's own indifference to the rule of law. Suppose that, instead of reshuffling his ministers and playing games with his courtiers, Mr Yeltsin had used all his energies and constitutional powers to force through tax legislation or to privatise agricultural land. Russia might be making the kind of progress visible in Central Europe and the Baltic states.

Let me illustrate with another vignette. I am sitting in an expensive restaurant in Zhukovka, the smartest holiday village outside Moscow — a Russian version of Palm Springs. The Western businessman with whom I am lunching points discreetly to a burly figure tucking into his *shishlik* "that man," my companion says. "Is Yeltsin's debt-collector?" What does this mean, I ask. Is he a sort of political whip, who enforces promises among the President's entourage? Not at all, laughs my friend. When a company goes bankrupt, the debt-collector turns up, armed with a presidential decree, to seize anything he wants — stocks of unsold goods or raw materials. He keeps what he wants, sells what he wants and gives

what he wants to the Government. In less than a year he had become a multimillionaire. "Last week," my companion said, "he told me he was chartering a cargo jet to a Siberian company town and invited me to join him. Actually what he said was 'I can take whatever I want from that city. Come and help with the plunder!'"

Nevertheless, Russian culture is slowly re-emerging from its decades of darkness. If this cultural renaissance continues, the country will gradually rejoin the mainstream of European civilisation. It will find better political leadership and eventually enjoy an economic revival too.

On Friday night I went to an opera in an 18th-century Baroque mansion (a small part of which my family occupied in the first five years of my life). There were just 300 seats, no orchestra pit and a stage no bigger than a school auditorium, with no theatrical machinery. I saw perhaps the best staged, most beautifully sung and most spectacular opera performance in my life. The work was a grandiose production of Verdi's *Aida* staged, complete with triumphal marches, pyramids and evil Egyptian priests, in a room no bigger than the crush bar at Covent Garden.

I felt that the Helicon Opera production alone had justified my Moscow trip. Afterwards, I managed to meet the producer and learnt that the Helicon was just one of five new full-time opera companies performing in Moscow, while London wonders whether it can support two. I mused that something more important than bread prices had been liberated when Mr Gorbachev set the Russians free.

The creativity and enthusiasm that is finally palpable in Moscow culture has not yet reached the Kremlin but, sooner or later, the energy could spill over into politics and wash away the apathy that is preserving the corrupt industrial and government elites. If that ever happened, Russia would finally become a great power in business and economics, as well as in art, culture and science. The Renaissance and the Enlightenment took more than seven years to complete. But the world is right to be impatient about Russia's lack of progress.

Anatole Kaletsky's column will appear here each Thursday. William Rees-Mogg's column will continue to be published on Mondays.

## Anatole Kaletsky

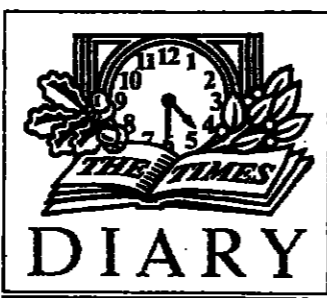
# Great Scot!

WHOOPI! GOLDBERG is Scottish. The actress, who has built a strong reputation playing black Americans in films such as *The Colour Purple*, has just visited Caledonia to trace her Celtic roots. Goldberg (pictured), born in the heart of Manhattan, says she was christened Caryn Johnson: "It is a very Scottish name. There is definitely some of that in me," she claims, adding that she feels a strong pull for her "homeland". "I enjoy going back. The people are so friendly." (Clearly her tour did not take in the Gorbals at chucking-out time.)

Whoopee! fellow Scots will be delighted by my story. I am sure, but she explains that she is "a mutt" with distinct traces of "Jewish, Catholic, Asian, black and white".

She became "Whoopee" after schoolfriends noted her interest in flautulence, and "Goldberg" because "it is a name in our family's past". Her disclosure explains why she struck up a (doomed) relationship with Ted Danson, the star of *Cheers*. He also discovered secret Scottish ancestry, tracing his heritage back to the MacMaster clan.

That keen student of things black, Dr Alan Sked of the LSE, gives credence to her claim: "It is quite conceivable that there is white blood somewhere there. White slave-owners had sex with their slaves. Johnson could have been a plantation owner in the Deep South or the Caribbean. They would have been given the



● A CASE study in becoming a nobody. Andrew Marr remembers him, a one-time Editor of *The Independent* is scrambling about a snub from Chris Smith. Marr says he was telephoned by the Culture Secretary's PA to be told that lunch was off because: "Well, frankly, you're not an editor any more." Smith assures me that this was an administrative glitch and that he will ring to apologise. But will he still, in the parlance of these relationships, "do lunch"?

### Labour's loves

CHERIE BLAIR faces being dragged into an internal Labour feud, courtesy of her father, Tony Booth. He is to give evidence on behalf of Ron Rose, the left-wing television scriptwriter, who faces a kangaroo court, charged with heresy: hold-

ing the faith of old Labour. Rose, whose latest offering was *Things You Do For Love* about the affair between Booth Senior, the *Till Death Us Do Part* actor, and Pat Phoenix, the late *Coronation Street* performer, moans: "It's a barmy. They are trying to airbrush me out of the picture." It is a bitter dispute that has divided Yorkshire types for some time. "If a grudge does not go back two or three generations in this part of the world, then it is not considered worth pursuing." No wonder Cherie finds Islington more congenial.

● THE complete works of the late Ayatollah Khomeini are to be placed on the Internet. More than



210 works in Persian and 107 texts in 16 other languages will be on the website. No doubt to be filed under "easy reading".

### Rough aria

VANITY in the opera world (instalment 2.137). Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu (pictured left), the uppity tenor and soprano couple, swept into the BBC with a hair stylist leading a fawning entourage earlier this week. "It was most peculiar as the interview was for radio," says a BBC type. The warblers are notorious for their spats with producers at Covent Garden and the New York Met. Their banter at the Beeb did not disappoint. "They were like the Mr and Mrs Ceausescu of opera."

● GAZZA and Shazza would never have stood for it. Mario Zagallo, the Brazilian coach, has outlawed sex during France 98, banning girlfriends from hotel rooms. At least his star player, Ronaldo, will be happy — he has just ended a UN campaign on safe sex.

### Aiming high...

I HAVE been in discussions about global affairs with Brenda Schud (pictured) the new Wonderbra totty



who has dated Robert Hanson, Lord Hanson's boy. She has a healthy attitude towards our democratic representatives. "Politicians are always corrupt — that's the one true constant," says the daughter of a Choctaw squaw and Cherokee Indian whose firm provided ample inspiration for *Pocahontas* in the Walt Disney entertainment. And what career plans does she have? "I know that one day I want to get involved in politics."

JASPER GERARD

# Labour's tartan Tammany

### Magnus Linklater says sleaze threatens Dewar's dominance

A plumber on a basic salary of £10,600 boosts his earnings to £54,000 a year through huge bonus and overtime payments. Scaffolders are on £32,900. A lollipop man takes home £370 a week. Six worth £800,000 has disappeared. There is a £4.5 million hole in the council of single-party control. This is the kind of revelation that could lose Labour its first elections to the new parliament in Scotland — where it has held sway for some 40 years.

North Lanarkshire Council bears all the hallmarks of the classic rotten borough. For years it has managed to protect jobs against the rigour of outside competition, running its own roadbuilding and construction projects through a council-controlled Direct Labour Organisation which has won contracts by consistent underbidding. Its councillors have presided over a system which has never been properly exposed to outside scrutiny, and which, with... effective opposition, has rarely been challenged. These DLOs are the last serious repository of council power, controlling multimillion-pound budgets. In England, they have largely succumbed to privatisation and been wound up. In Scotland, where competitive tendering is still regarded as an outrageous manifestation of Thatcherism, they survive intact.

North Lanarkshire is not unique, and therein lies a future nightmare for the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar.

As he contemplates the campaign for a Scottish parliament in May next year, he can detect a series of unexploded time bombs. Already there are suggestions that East Ayrshire, where auditors have been called in to investigate financial mismanagement, may be concealing similar horrors to those in North Lanarkshire. On Glasgow City Council, the former Lord Provost, a senior Labour councillor are resisting attempts to oust them from office following allegations of sleaze. In Govan, Mohammed Sarwar, MP, elected amid charges of vote-rigging and bribery, faces possible criminal proceedings. In Renfrewshire West, the case of Tommy Graham, MP, accused of conducting a whispering campaign against the late Gordon McMaster, will come to a head after a party investigation. Who knows whether there are more to come?

It all adds to the general sense of a Government in Scotland incapable of firm action. For the first time, some — so far anonymous — voices have even begun to question the credentials of Mr Dewar himself. Yesterday I found myself writing down in amazement the words of the BBC's experienced political editor in Scotland: "Some Labour activists are saying: talented as Donald Dewar is, he may not be the best person to lead the party at this stage." There was a time when this would have been little short of sacrilege. The man credited by Tony Blair and most of Scotland's voters as the architect of devolution, the guarantor of a Scottish parliament and almost certainly its first Minister, is now, it seems, just another party leader fighting for survival. Could Mr Dewar, I wondered, turn out to be the Mikhail Gorbachev of Scotland — hailed as the great reformer, but ultimately rejected by those for whom he delivered reform?

In the end, I doubt it. This is a battle that had, sooner or later, to be fought; and it could, if properly managed, reverse the fortunes of the party rather than finish them off, rather as John Smith won credit for talking on the unions. The single party control that Labour has enjoyed for so many years in the West of Scotland has long been the unresolved issue of Scottish, indeed British, politics. Hitherto it has been portrayed as a power struggle between entrenched old Labour interests and new Labour ideology. What is now emerging suggests, rather, that unchallenged power is corrupt power, that these dog-eared institutions, instead of defending the public interest, are betraying it. Those who attack the Government for failing to relax spending limits will need to demonstrate why that would not simply be throwing good money after bad.

Mr Dewar, on the other hand, now has justification for the firm action he has not so far been confident enough to take. Already he has announced plans to investigate the DLOs in every one of Scotland's 32 councils. North Lanarkshire will almost certainly be the first to have its organisation wound up; others may follow. In the longer term ministers will be entitled to intervene in every case where there is a failure to provide services and balance budgets. They may even endorse the idea of proportional representation (a Liberal Democrat idea) to break up the tyranny of single-party power for good. None of this will be popular with those local authorities who attempt to resist, but Mr Dewar can justifiably claim that he is acting in the public interest, and with public support, in taking them on.

It might also endorse the Scottish Secretary with something which, for all his virtues, he has so far lacked: a genuine streak of ruthlessness. That could just be an election winner.

WRONGS  
POIROT  
Part Two...







COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
His Royal Highness later departed Karmeleva Airport, Lithuania...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Schemes...

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, British Gliding Association...

KENSINGTON PALACE
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, BLISS (Baby Life Support Systems)...

Today's royal engagements
The Queen will open the new Royal Commonwealth Sports Club...

Birthdays today
General Sir Cecil Blacker, 82; Mr Bob Champion, jockey and trainer...

Trinity House
The Duke of Edinburgh was re-elected Master of the Corporation of Trinity House...

Latest wills
Katherine Margaret Dorothy Eden, of St Cross, Winchester, left estate valued at £1,027,990 net...

Dinners

Textile Conservation Centre
The Princess Royal, Patron of the Textile Conservation Centre...

Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Mr Norman Munday, Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London...

Travellers Club
Mr William Dalrymple, traveller and author, was guest of honour at a Club Evening...

Law Society
Mr Phillip Sycamore, President, the Vice-President and the Founder of the Law Society...

Luncheon
Association of Foreign Affairs Journalists
Mr Michael Howard, QC, Opposition Spokesman for Foreign Affairs...

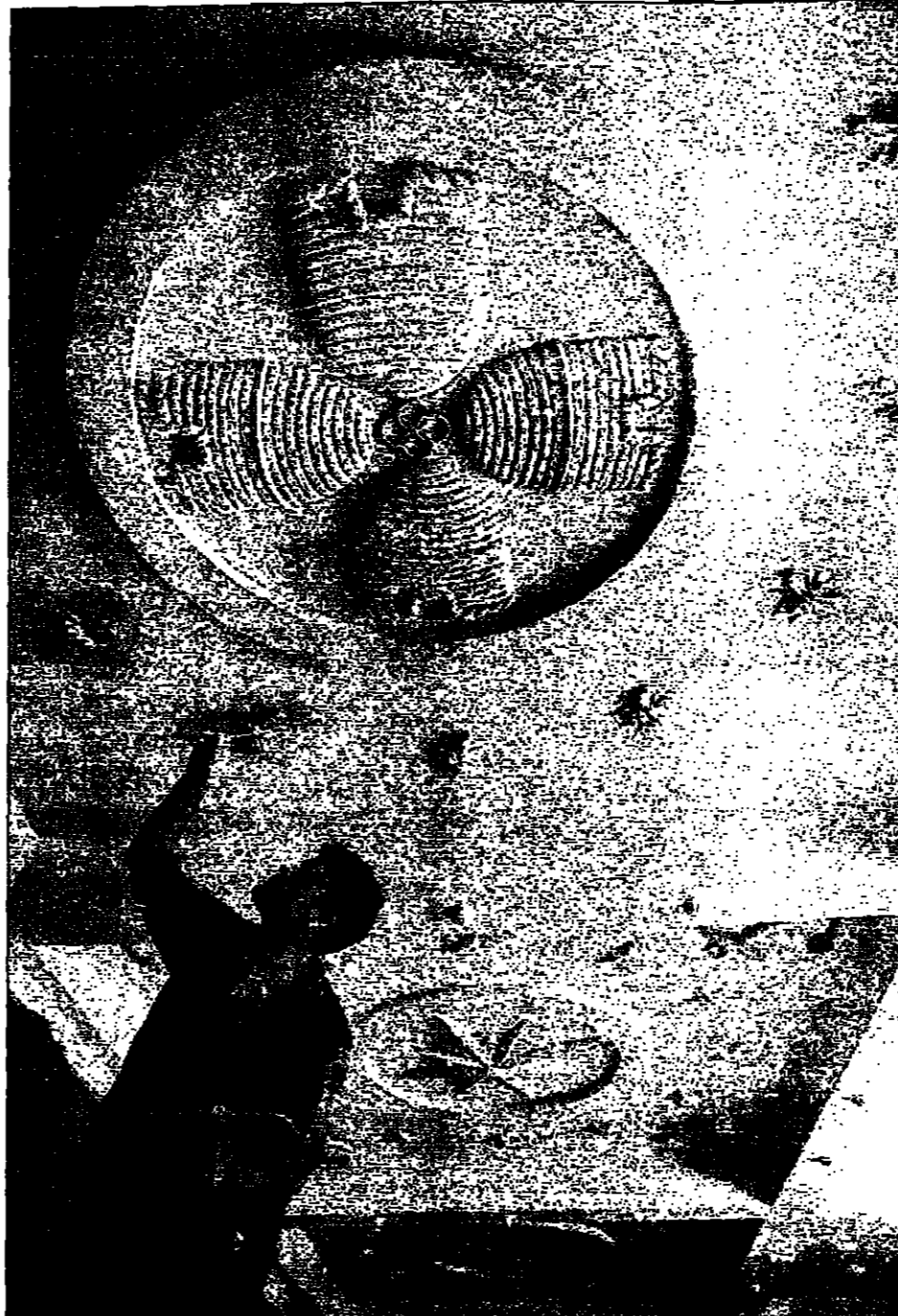
Reception
London University
The Vice-Chancellor of London University and Baroness Thatcher...

Memorial notices
Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Maureen Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava...

Church news
The Rev Robert Gillon, Priest-in-Charge, Diocese of Bay and Islands...

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: William Gilpin, writer, Scaleby Castle, near Lizard...

Lincoln's Inn
Mr Nicholas Easterman has been elected as a benchman...



The sculptor John Davies working on the restored ceiling of Buckland Abbey
Drake's ceiling rises again after its destruction by fire

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT
SIXTY years after a fire destroyed an historic Tudor ceiling at Buckland Abbey, the Devon house where Sir Francis Drake planned the defeat of the Spanish Armada...

Church of Scotland
Ordination and induction
The Rev Marjory H. MacKay, to Cumbrae...

RAF Cranwell graduation

Air Marshal G. A. Robertson, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander in Chief Strike Command...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.F. Brailsford and Miss A.J. Roberts
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Frederick Brailsford...

University news

Bristol University
The title of Emeritus Professor has been accorded to the following on their retirement on July 3, 1998...

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHS
THOMAS - On Wednesday May 27th 1998 to Claire (nee Jeremy) and David, a son, Richard and Karen's son...

DEATHS
BOWFIELD - Peacefully at home on May 27th 1998 after a brave fight against cancer, Jill Bowfield...

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313
TICKETS FOR SALE
ALL SPORTS THEATRE
CORPORATE HOSPITALITY

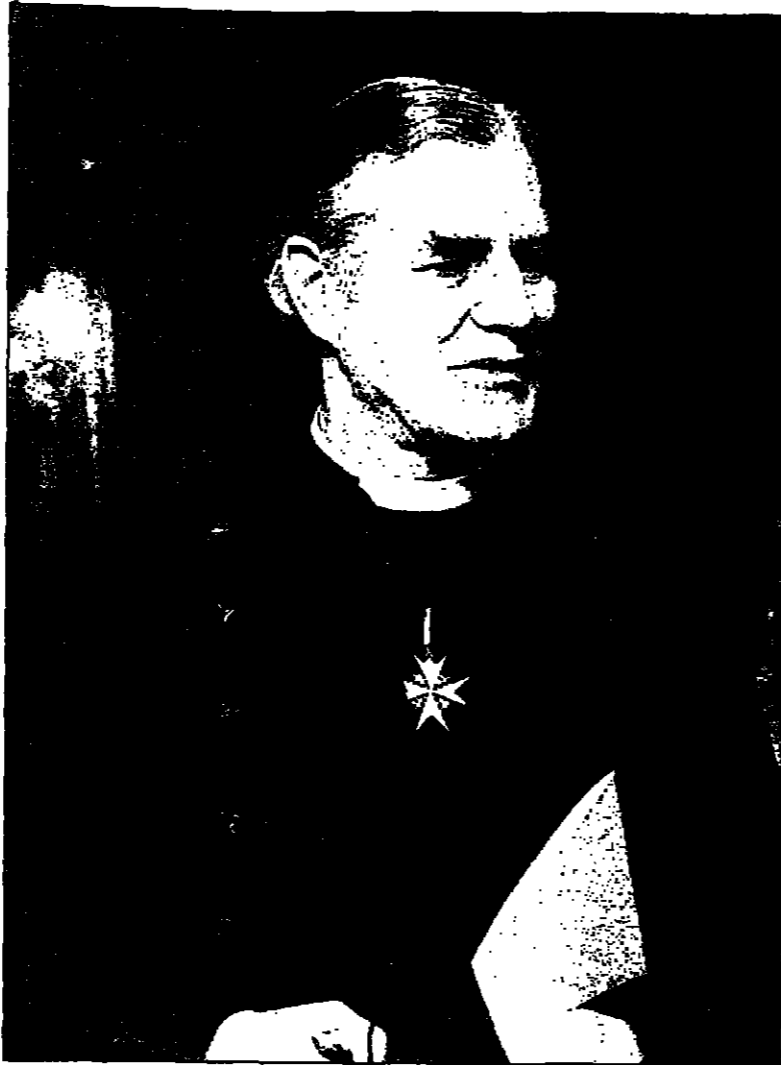
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SALE
BIRTHS
DEATHS
TICKETS FOR SALE
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OBITUARIES

THE VERY REV WILLIAM BADDELEY

The Very Rev William Baddeley, Dean of Brisbane, 1958-67, and Rector of St James, Piccadilly, 1967-80, died on May 31 aged 84. He was born on March 20, 1914.



Bill Baddeley had the communication skills of a natural performer

With his debonair looks and attractive voice, Bill Baddeley might easily have followed his two famous half-sisters onto the stage. As a young man he did, in fact, consider a career in the theatre or on the concert platform. Instead, however, while Angela and Hermione Baddeley won renown as actresses, he placed his talents at the service of the Church of England, and when he finally arrived in the West End it was not as an actor but as rector of the fashionable parish of St James, Piccadilly.

His appointment there followed high-profile periods as vicar of the run-down post-war parish of St Pancras and as a popular Dean of Brisbane. To all of them he brought charm, affability, strong pastoral commitment, keen musicianship, and the communication skills of a natural public performer.

William Pye Baddeley was born in Shropshire. With four older half-sisters, he grew up the only son of W.H. Clinton-Baddeley and Louise Bourdin, a musical couple who had met at the Royal College. Their mother "sang a bit," Hermione Baddeley once recalled, "but only in polite society; she was really very grand." She was also quite wealthy, but much of her money went on financing the unsuccessful comic operas which her husband insisted on writing.

The theatre was part of Baddeley's childhood. Angela, ten years his senior, made a precocious debut at the Old Vic the year after he was born, as the little Duke of York in Richard III; Hermione (born in 1906) made her first appearance three years later, and by the mid-1920s both sisters were established on the West End stage. The playwright Clinton Baddeley was a cousin.

William was educated at Durham University, where he was president of the Union and captain of boats. Realising that his vocation lay in the Church rather than in the theatre, he went on from St Chad's College, Durham, to train for the ministry at Cuddesdon. He was ordained deacon in 1941 and priest in 1942, and after curacies in Camberwell, Wandsworth and Bournemouth, was appointed vicar of St Pancras in 1949.

There he found himself responsible for a mixed inner-city parish which embraced railway workers from the nearby station, nurses from the local hospitals, and residents of the run-down streets of Somers Town. It was centred on a fine pillared church in Upper Woburn Place, which had been one of the most expensive churches of its day when it was built in 1822. By the time Baddeley took over, however, it had fallen on hard times. When, in 1951, he attempted to bring the building's upper galleries back into use, he discovered first crumbling plaster, then rotting beams, and finally a roof in danger of imminent collapse. The church was closed, an appeal was launched, and for two and a half years he held his services elsewhere, while repairs were carried out at a cost of some £60,000.

Events at St Pancras attracted more public interest than they might have done under a less prepossessing incumbent. Baddeley was not only a dashing figure, dark, curly-haired, good-looking, and related to two of the most popular actresses in England; he also had a magnificent singing voice, a deep rich bass, that could dominate a choir and was thought by many to be unrivalled in London's churches. He had had no lessons, but his voice projection would have done credit to any professional. A firm believer in congregational singing, he liked to give "a good, strong lead."

Baddeley once said that he considered giving personal guidance to individuals to be of far greater value than dealing with them en masse. In broadcasting, which might be said to offer a useful way of reaching people in large numbers while nonetheless addressing them as individuals, he found a natural extension of his ministry, and a congenial outlet for his theatrical interests and talents. He presented a late-night epilogue on independent television in Britain in the 1950s, and

was to be a regular panellist on discussion programmes throughout the 1960s.

By then he was in Australia, having been appointed Dean of Brisbane in 1958. He and his wife and young daughter sailed to Australia on the Strathnaver, arriving just before Christmas; Baddeley served as chaplain on the ship, enabling his family to cross for just £10 a head.

Once in Brisbane he continued to attract attention. Indeed, he provoked a national furore when he went to the races in August 1960 — and backed six out of seven winners. Churchmen from the Anglican Dean of Melbourne to the Superintendent of the Central Methodist Mission in Sydney united in condemnation. Baddeley was unrepentant. He had had, he said, "a perfectly wonderful day" and would go again as soon as he was asked.

As far as he was concerned, "provided one can afford it, and it is properly controlled, there is no possible harm in gambling." The whole affair was a case of "Puritanism versus full-blooded Christianity — and I'm a full-blooded Christian." Most Australians shared his view. "He's packing the cathedral," Hermione told an interviewer. "I wish I could fill a theatre as well."

In Brisbane Baddeley was a promi-

ent patron of the arts. He and his wife filled the deanery with modern pictures. He served as president of the Brisbane Repertory Theatre and also involved himself with the Queensland Ballet Company and the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. He loved to cook after-theatre suppers.

After nine years in Australia he returned, not without regret, to London, to take up the plum living of St James, Piccadilly. With his ebullient, easy manner, he could not have been more different from his predecessor as rector there, the shy and scholarly Etienne J.S. Brewis, a former archdeacon and sometime ecclesiastical correspondent of The Times.

The beautiful Wren church had been almost completely destroyed during the war and had been virtually out of action for some time. Brewis, on taking over in 1954, had struggled to rebuild a loyal congregation.

Baddeley continued the reconstruction. He had been persuaded in Australia of the merits of the ecumenical movement, and at St James's he established excellent relations with representatives of the other churches. He had felt in Brisbane that Australians of all denominations were "much more closely allied to their churches than the English." But he thought that things were changing for the better in England too, and he relished the challenge of his new parish, which combined the glamour of the West End with the squalor of Soho. "It is a small community and lends itself to the personal touch," he said.

A persuasive preacher himself, he lamented what he saw as the poor state of preaching in Britain, and thought that the example of Billy Graham might usefully be studied. By the time he retired in 1980, he had done much to establish St James's as a venue for special services and courses of sermons, as well as for fashionable weddings.

Music was of great importance, not only as a central element of worship, but in the form of lunchtime concerts and celebrity recitals by performers such as the cellist Rostropovich. There were also lectures on a wide variety of subjects, with speakers ranging from Yehudi Menuhin to Sir Roy Strong. Baddeley's work in this direction has been continued in more spectacular fashion, and into rather more esoteric realms, by his successor as rector, Donald Reeves.

Baddeley's artistic interests found further expression in London in his service as chaplain to the Royal Academy (his neighbours across the road in Piccadilly), and in his work with the Actors' Church Union. His musical contacts led to involvement with the Makolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children. He was Rural Dean of Westminster from 1974 to 1979, and in 1981 was, somewhat belatedly, made Dean Emeritus of Brisbane. In retirement he lived at Woodbridge in Suffolk.

Bill Baddeley is survived by his wife Mary, whom he married in 1947, and by their daughter.

PROFESSOR C. A. MAYER



Klaus Mayer charted Lucian's influence in France

Professor C. A. Mayer, French Renaissance scholar, died at Wisbech St Mary on May 21 aged 79. He was born in Mainz on November 16, 1918.

KLAUS MAYER made an outstanding contribution to the study of French Renaissance literature, both in his research and his teaching. His doctoral thesis struck a rich seam. *Satire in French Renaissance Literature, 1525-1560* moved easily between history, literature and ideas and led to a spate of articles and discoveries. In due course Mayer was to supervise three other doctorates, all new published, on topics originating from his own thesis.

Mayer was a pioneer in charting the influence of the Greek satirist Lucian on the French Renaissance, an influence now fully appreciated. He took endless delight in the works of Lucian, in whom he found a kindred spirit. Naturally combative, Mayer relished intellectual argument, and his writings were often enlivened by polemic in the manner of many of his Renaissance authors.

Mayer's other principal concern was the life and work of the poet Clément Marot. His critical edition was published in six volumes between 1958 and 1980 and, although it has long since been superseded, it was the first true critical edition, and is still the best. This, too, produced a fine progeny, resulting in the publication by doctoral students of critical editions of poems of the school of Marot and his precursors, as well as studies of his themes and the genre.

Born at the end of the First World War and reaching manhood in the shadow of the next, Klaus Mayer — he rarely used the names Claude Albert, which he adopted on his enlistment in the British Army — suffered many disruptions in his early life. He was educated at the Lycée Janson de Sailly, and then again in 1936 to London, where he completed his baccalauréat at the Lycée français, before entering University College London to read French.

Even this was not without its distractions, however: evacuation to Aberystwyth was followed by internment as an enemy alien at Huyton and six

years' service in the British Army, three of them in the Pioneer Corps. By his own account, Mayer was not a particularly competent soldier. He never mastered the accurate dispatch of the hand-grenade, his for some reason tending to bounce backwards, and he was unwilling to bull his boots until shown the error of his ways. Nor did he have much stomach for the more grisly duties, such as grave-digging, allotted to the corps. By inclination and talent, he was more suited to his next posting, in the Intelligence Corps, where several senior German Army personnel, including Kesselring, passed through his hands.

Compelled to learn a new language at each stage of this odyssey in order to pursue his studies, and dogged by family tragedy (his mother died in Paris and his sister, later, in London, both of cancer), he could have been excused for finding life bleak. But there were compensations: a depth of culture and a linguistic competence which were difficult to match and, above all, marriage to Dana who supported him throughout, and never more so than in his final illness.

Mayer returned to University College after his extended absence to graduate with a first in French and to complete his PhD within two years. He held posts in the Universities of Hull, Southampton and Bedford College, London. His Bedford years were happy ones: these were years of

plenty for universities, and of relative freedom from bureaucracy. But it was his appointment to the James Barrow Chair of French in the University of Liverpool in 1965, where he was to remain until his retirement, that allowed him to fulfil his ambition to run his own department. If the going was initially harder in Liverpool, he nevertheless quickly built up an impressive postgraduate school.

In addition to his 12 principal books and some 50 articles, he produced an annual French play in London and Liverpool, sometimes taking a major role himself, and still found time to act as secretary, vice-president and president of French Studies. He also edited a series of Renaissance texts and monographs, and was for many years chief examiner for A-level French literature for Cambridge.

He kept a fine cellar and was a most accomplished cook, often creating a dish to reflect a research interest or to illustrate a literary point: his *coq à l'âne en pâté* or his *chevreau*, served at its most succulent *tempore papali ab Ecclesia interdicta*. His table was an adjunct to his teaching.

He remained a devoted servant of France, its language and its culture, and was awarded a doctorate *honoris causa* by the University of Montpellier.

He is survived by his wife, herself the author of distinguished contributions to Renaissance iconography, and their son.

HIS HONOUR A. W. CLARK

His Honour A. W. ("Bertie") Clark, Circuit Judge, 1981-95, died on May 26 aged 75. He was born on September 23, 1922.

AS HIS sobriquet perhaps suggested, "Bertie" Clark was an unusual figure to find on the bench among the lesser judiciary, among the lesser judiciary. Certainly, his background

was wholly untypical. Educated at Christ's College, Finchley, Albert William Clark soon rose, once he had been called to the Bar in 1949, to be the Clerk of Arraigns at the Old Bailey, the very court where he was ultimately to sit just before his retirement — only this time he was on the Bench rather than just below it.

During the forty-odd years in between he held a variety of legal appointments — indeed, after service with the Royal Navy in the North Atlantic and on Arctic convoys during the war, he devoted the whole of his working life to the law and the administration of justice.

In 1956 he was appointed Justices' Clerk for East Devon

and discharged his duties with distinction, being elected a council member (and subsequently an honorary member) of the Justices' Clerks' Society in an era when its influence was widely felt.

He was instrumental in establishing a Magistrates' Association branch in Devon, and recognised at an early stage the vital importance of a

thorough training for the unpaid lay magistracy.

In 1970 he found himself back in the capital, serving as a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate in a number of courts, including Wells Street in the West End and later at South Western. During this period his continued belief in high standards led to his being chairman of the training sub-committee of the Inner London Magistrates' Association. He became a member of the Inner London Probation and After-Care Committee in 1971 and from 1975 to 1980 was a member of the Central Council of Probation and After-Care Committees.

In 1981, in a striking promotion, he was appointed to the Circuit Bench, sitting for some years at Inner London Crown Court, where his vast experience and knowledge of the criminal justice system and law at all levels was highly regarded. He was known as a wise and shrewd counsellor, and was never pompous.

He then moved to perhaps the happiest and most fulfilling phase of his career, which was spent at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court.

That court, despite its views over Parliament and the Abbey, may lack the allure of



Clark: kindly, but with a safe pair of judicial hands

Old Bailey or the imposing nature of the new larger crown court centres but, through the unstuffiness of its resident judges and its friendly staff, it has managed to cultivate something of a family atmosphere in which Bertie Clark was very much at home. For his last few months in office he sat at the old Bailey, thanks to

the untimely death of a Central Criminal Court judge.

At the time of his retirement his reputation was that of a fair-minded and kindly judge, able to put witnesses at their ease and possessed of a safe pair of judicial hands, though not tolerant of falling standards within or outside the legal profession. His judicial

experience had ranged from the time-honoured staple of pickpockets, street traders and prostitutes in the magistrates' courts through to lengthy fraud trials and serious cases of violence while sitting on the Circuit Bench.

No doubt as a result of his wartime experiences in the Royal Navy, boats and water remained his first love. Until recently he kept a boat near his home in Worthing, and was an accomplished all-weather sailor. He was a keen fly fisherman, tying many of his own flies.

With his wife he loved to travel and visited many parts of the world, often off the beaten track. In recent years he worked tirelessly as chairman of his local branch of the Abbeyfield Society providing housing, with care, for elderly people.

Bertie Clark rejoiced in a long and happy married life. In 1951 he married Philippa, the daughter of a missionary doctor who had spent many years in China. Besides his wife, he is survived by two children, Adrian, a consultant at Barr's and Susie who followed her father into the law, qualifying as a solicitor and winning the Justices' Clerks' Society prize.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

ATLAS TRADE FRAMES LIMITED... NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3EX on 2nd July 1998 at 3.30 pm for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the creditors on the proposed arrangement for the reconstruction of the Company.

FLATSHARE

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Flights Directory... List of airlines and flight times. Tel: 0171 851 2222.

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Rentals... Property for rent in various locations. Tel: 0171 851 2222.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements... Various notices and advertisements. Tel: 0171 851 2222.

COURT & SOCIAL

Court & Social... Legal notices and social announcements. Tel: 0171 851 2222.

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NAVY'S TASK AT DUNKIRK "TRIUMPH OF SEA AND AIR POWER". The Admiralty issued last night a long communiqué on the withdrawal of Allied Forces from Dunkirk, which it describes as "the most extensive and difficult combined operation in naval history."

ON THIS DAY June 4, 1940. From May 27 to June 4, 1940, 338,226 British and Allied troops were taken off the beaches of Dunkirk. Churchill said that the diversion was not a victory: "Wars are not won by evacuation."

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office... NEWS IN BRIEF... Brown will fight £3.20 youth wage... Meet RANKIN the man who catches the stars... FREE WITH SATURDAY TIMES



NEWS

Prescott hails Tunnel deal

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, pledged last night to give taxpayers a "golden share" in the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link...

He hailed a financial package that would return to the public sector a share of future profits from the Eurostar train services between London and Paris and Brussels...

German rail crash toll mounts

More than a hundred people were killed in Germany's worst rail disaster for half a century yesterday when a high-speed train was derailed, bringing an overhead road bridge crashing down on its rear carriages...

North Korea bomb

North Korea may possess at least one nuclear bomb and be tempted to resume its nuclear programme, according to a confidential study by Japan's Defence Agency...

Lost heritage

Ancient monuments in England are falling prey to urban expansion and industrial and agricultural development...

Election platform

At least nine republicans and loyalists with terrorist convictions are seeking election to the Northern Ireland assembly...

Silk purse

Mr Justice Lightman joined the row over legal fees when he said there was an element of truth in the public's view that the granting of silk was a "licence to print money"...

Surgeon barred

A surgeon who fatally infected a patient with hepatitis B after operating on her while bleeding from a cut into her open wound has been banned from operating for three years...

Top of the pops

Pop history was made this week when three siblings from a Dublin family took the No 1 slots in both the British singles and album charts...

Starr discharged

The comedian, Freddie Starr, was given a conditional discharge by magistrates after admitting that he slapped his teenage son during a family row...

A mother's stand

A Chinese mother whose son was killed in the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 is opposing President Clinton's visit to Beijing this month...

Class division

Many more children will have to be taught in mixed-age classes if the Government is to deliver its election pledge to reduce class sizes...

Espionage failure

The US intelligence community requires a complete overhaul, according to the author of a report on the failure to predict India's nuclear tests...

Agatha Christie deal

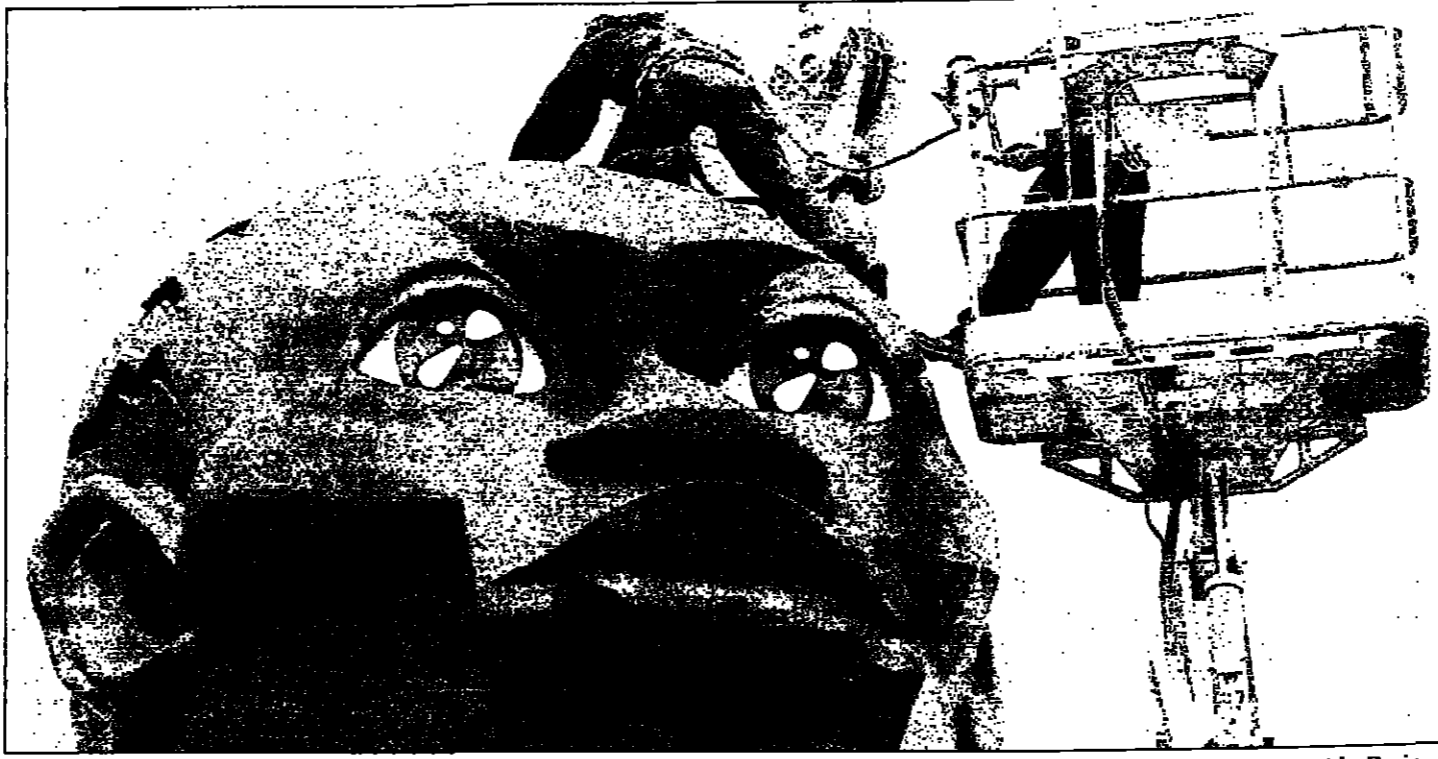
Chorion plc, the company that owns Enid Blyton's works, has signed a £10 million deal giving it a 64 per cent majority share in Agatha Christie Ltd...

Botha denounced

The death-squad leader, Eugene de Kock, has further implicated P. W. Botha, his master and former President, in "major acts of terrorism"...

Earl Spencer on the record

Earl Spencer is likely to widen the rift between the Spencers and the Royal Family by appearing in a television documentary analysing how the Royals treated his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales...



A giant head, one of four representing the different races, being prepared for the opening of the World Cup football tournament in Paris

BUSINESS

Pensions row: Life insurers have accused occupational pension schemes of profiting from the personal pension scandal by charging exorbitant administration fees to reinstate victims...

Right tracks: Railtrack shares rose to a new high as the privatised company announced a 12 per cent rise in profits and confirmed it would take part in the Channel Tunnel rescue...

RAC bonus: Three men running the breakdown side of the Royal Automobile Club are in line to share a £600,000 bonus...

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 56.1 to 5898.4. The pound rose 0.4 cents to \$1.6380 but fell 1.52 pfennig to DM2.9022...

SPORT

Cricket: Alec Stewart's reign as England captain begins with the First Test against South Africa at Edgbaston today...

Football: Has Glenn Hoddle revealed his first-choice team for England's opening match of the World Cup...

Tennis: Martina Hingis is favoured to reach her sixth successive Grand Slam final when she meets Monica Seles in the French Open today...

Rugby union: Matt Dawson will be available when England face New Zealand on their tour of the Southern Hemisphere...

Golf: The Walker Cup player, Justin Rose, aged 17, was defeated in the first round of the Amateur Championship...

ARTS

Jole de Viv: After the book and the TV play comes Spend. Spend. Spend! the musical, a song-and-dance biography of the poos-winner Viv Nicholson...

Baton of note: The British conductor, Paul Mann, has won the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, picking up £15,000 and an engagement with the London Symphony Orchestra...

New on Video and CD: Mike Figgis's compelling study of infidelity, One Night Stand, is out on video; new recordings include Sir Charles Mackerras's version of Beethoven's Fidelio...

Gere goes east: New movies include Red Corner, a taut thriller in which Richard Gere tangles with the Beijing authorities...

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Testicular cancer: blackwater fever; Paget's disease of the nipple...

Stepping out: You don't have to be Imelda Marcos to know that one remedy for life's catastrophes is a new pair of shoes...

Face-savers: Do anti-ageing creams work? Ignorance is unsafe: Why are divorced people so ignorant about safe sex?...

Crises management: The threat of terrorism may have receded but there are other potential crises for companies...

Memories: Howard Davies finds George Best's story profoundly depressing...

Best buys: Savings on self-catering in Cornwall...

The recent accusation in the Pakistani Press that two of the bombs detonated by India were supplied by Israel does not have to be correct. The important thing is that it serves Pakistan's purpose of enlisting the support of Islamic countries in the face of sanctions...

Constitutional threat from P.R. Gaza as sporting role model Crown Prosecution Service; tomato sauce as health food...

Constitutional threat from P.R. Gaza as sporting role model Crown Prosecution Service; tomato sauce as health food...

Constitutional threat from P.R. Gaza as sporting role model Crown Prosecution Service; tomato sauce as health food...



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

MEDIA: Gazza all over the red-tops and the qualities... what's happened to news values?

EDUCATION: A notable future for school music is the Government playing the right tune?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,809

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS: 1 Disguise unpleasant medicine that can make pulse alright (5,3,4). 9 Chase girl behind church (5). 10 French maid Shaw put on the stage (4,2,3). 11 Closely pursuing, complete with hawk (2,4,3). 12 Peasant discovers two oxen left behind (5). 13 Provoke intense rivalry (6). 14 Cite religious writing about one result of division (8). 18 Marx, dropping round by river, returned in aircraft (8). 19 Sly person getting wide support for artist (6). 22 Sample some ragout (a stew) (5). 24 Zealously arriving too soon, something round home (9). 26 Going round in the soil damaged the marrow (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20808: GAGA BROOMSTICK DEAR PERSUASION SRI DILLIARD ADDRESSSEE DWELL CEASRIEME ROUNDTHEBEND ERLUEASO SFWATERDWINNER SRIANGNOSTALGIA BUREAUCRAT WEED EICGRRI TICKETRYBOO TYRE

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World City Weather: 153 destinations world wide 6 day forecasts by Phone dial 0330 411216 by Fax (indicate page) 0330 410333

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HOURS OF DARKNESS: Sun rises 4:47 am Sun sets 9:11 pm Moon sets 2:55 am Moon rises 3:05 pm Full moon June 10 London 9:11 pm to 4:56 am Bristol 9:11 pm to 4:56 am Edinburgh 9:51 pm to 4:32 am Manchester 9:51 pm to 4:32 am Perthshire 9:51 pm to 4:32 am Perthshire 9:51 pm to 4:32 am Perthshire 9:51 pm to 4:32 am

FORECAST

General: warm, sunny spells, risk of light showers but much of South staying dry. Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland cooler, with heavier showers. London, SE England, Central S England, SW England, S Wales: cloudy with sunny spells. Light southerly breeze. Max 18C (64F). Midlands, E England, E Anglia, Channel Isles: early sunny spells, then mostly cloudy with chance of scattered showers. Light east/northeast breeze. Max 16C (61F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N England: mostly overcast with scattered showers, a few bright spots. Light easterly breeze. Max 15C (59F).

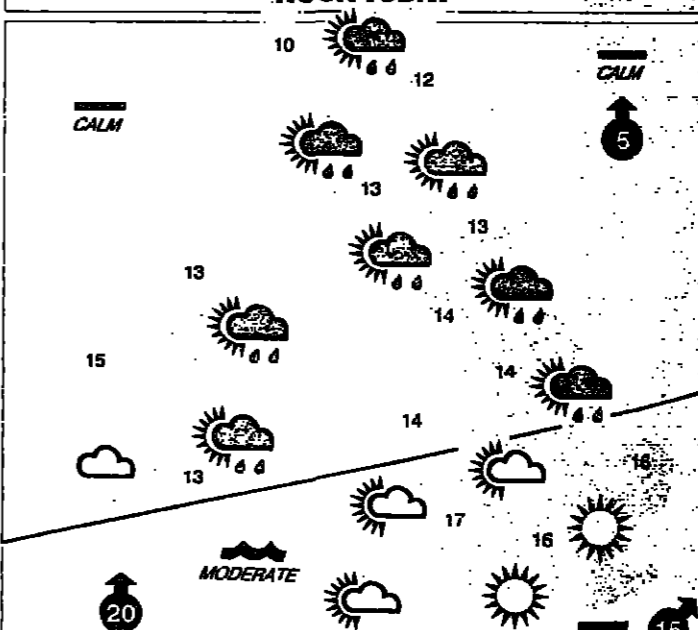
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, and Manchester.

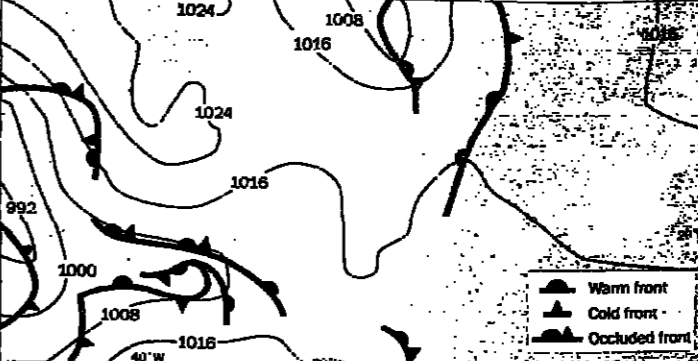
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various cities including Madrid, Moscow, Tokyo, and New York.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low N will move slowly southeast and fill; low F will continue north and slowly fill; high M will decline eastwards



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations including Aberdeen, London, and Liverpool.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Sheppards, Essex, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Bangor, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Lifford, 0.85in; highest sunshine: Clack, 12.5hr

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY' and 'CTRL d', along with other promotional messages.



# THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION

## 2 TODAY



### BUSINESS

**Bronwen Maddox says philanthropy conceals problems**  
PAGE 31



### ARTS

**A huge pools win becomes something to sing about**  
PAGES 37-39



### SPORT

**England's squad members play the numbers game**  
PAGES 45-52

**TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 4 1998

## CTRL deal sends Railtrack shares to record high

BY CARL MORTISHED

RAILTRACK shares soared to a high of £13.64 yesterday as the stock market celebrated a 20 per cent earnings boost and an agreement to acquire control of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The deal brokered with the Government will raise new concerns that Railtrack has again been offered assets on easy terms and will focus attention on the forthcoming regulatory review of Railtrack's revenues.

### AEA SHARES NEAR THREE TIMES FLOAT PRICE

THE latest deal by AEA Technology, formerly the commercial arm of the UK Atomic Energy Authority, has pushed its shares to nearly three times their value on privatisation less than two years ago (Paul Durman writes).

A joint venture to develop advanced lithium ion batteries with Japan Storage Battery Co and Mitsubishi Corporation lifted AEA Technology's shares to 837p, before they settled back to 812½p, 27½p up on the day and a new

closing high. The shares were 280p in the 1996 flotation. In the new venture, AGM Batteries will be 55 per cent owned by AEA to make lighter batteries for defence, communications and medical applications.

A new plant in Thurso, will create 130 jobs helped by £7.2 million from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise network.

However, CTRL will not form part of Railtrack's regulated revenues and Mr Swift could choose to ignore it.

Railtrack expects to be able to finance the first phase of the project without raising a penny from shareholders. The company said yesterday that access charges paid by Eurostar would provide it with a real rate of return at a small premium to Railtrack's cost of capital, reckoned to be about 7.5 per cent. Returns on the second, riskier phase of the project, from Ebbsfleet to St Pancras will be nearer 9 per cent.

The key to Railtrack's confidence in the project is a government guarantee over access charges to be paid by Eurostar. The Government is putting its guarantee behind some £3.8 billion of project debt to be raised by London & Continental Railways, who will build the link. A further guarantee that the Treasury will underwrite Eurostar's fees for use of the track provides Railtrack with a guaranteed income stream.

Railtrack will also share in any revenues earned by Eurostar in excess of agreed forecasts.

High-speed link, page 1  
Commentary, page 29  
Tempus, page 30

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	5886.4 (+56.1)
Yield	2.79%
FTSE All share	2813.58 (+22.48)
Nikkei	15947.00 (-207.45)
DAX	3100.00 (+10.00)
Dow Jones	8004.89 (+13.45)
S&P Composite	1065.99 (+2.77)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.25%
Long Bond	5.82%
3-mth Intbank	7.25%
Life long gov	108.91 (110)
Libra Corp	108.91 (110)
LONDON MONEY	
London	1.6387 (1.6405)
\$	1.6376 (1.6373)
DM	2.9016 (2.9173)
Sfr	2.1725 (2.1722)
Sfr	2.4176 (2.4250)
Yen	226.45 (227.50)
\$ Index	103.6 (104.0)
Tokyo close Yen	137.78
COMMODITIES	
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$14.50 (\$14.55)
London close	\$290.55 (\$291.05)

## Firms accused of profiteering by mis-sellers

BY RICHARD MILES

LIFE insurers have accused occupational pension schemes of profiteering from the personal pension mis-selling scandal by charging exorbitant administration fees to reinstate victims.

schemes levied similar charges for the 600,000 priority victims, this would add at least £300 million to the total compensation bill, estimated at £11 billion. Ultimately this extra cost will be borne by policyholders and shareholders.

Insurers are so angry at what they see as cynical exploitation by pension schemes that they are believed to have asked the Association of British Insurers to take up their case. As one pensions executive said yesterday: "We are in a no-win situation here."

According to the National Association of Pension Funds, whose members control some £600 billion of investments, there is no fixed charge for the administration of reinstatement cases. Instead, the charge is at the discretion of the individual scheme.

BT is believed to charge £500 plus VAT per case - in addition to the cost of restitution - while Tesco, which this week launched its own personal pension, demands £450 plus VAT per case. This compares with a £100 fee for reinstatement to the Standard Life pension scheme.

"We have not yet refused to pay any of these admin charges, but that does not mean that we would not refuse to pay them in future."

Other insurers were less generous. "This is a hell of a lot of money for simply pushing a couple of buttons," said a director from a leading bancassurance. Another pensions executive said: "The administration charges are substantially more than adequate to cover the costs."

Insurers feel they often have no choice but to pay the administration fees because of the pressure exerted by the Treasury to meet the regulatory deadlines for the review of personal pensions.

The Treasury said yesterday that this was a matter for companies, not for the Government. The total compensation bill for mis-selling could rise far beyond £11 billion, and not just because of the high admin charges. The continued bull-run on European and US stock markets has set the cost of restitution soaring, as transfer values are based in part on stock prices and dividends.

Up to 2.4 million people may have been misled into giving up their company pension scheme benefits to take out a personal pension. Only a small proportion of identified victims have so far received compensation. The Government has warned pension companies that they can expect hefty fines if they drag their heels over the review.

Commentary, page 29



Sitting pretty: Neil Johnson, chief executive, will receive a year's salary if members agree to the Cendant takeover

## RAC trio in line for £600,000 windfall

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE three men running the breakdown rescue side of the Royal Automobile Club are in line for a total of nearly £600,000 as a success fee if members vote for the £450 million takeover.

The bonus is to be paid to Neil Johnson, chief executive of the motoring services business and general secretary of the RAC itself, and Ian Mavor and Alastair Miller, two other directors, by Cendant, the American group buying the business.

Mr Johnson would receive a maximum of £256,250, Mr Mavor £162,000 and Mr Miller £155,000, representing

a year's salary for each. The three will continue to be employed under Cendant's ownership, and as full members, will be eligible also for the £33,000 to £35,000 promised to each full member.

The RAC put the business up for auction after Jeffrey Rose, the former chairman, was forced to resign for writing to members proposing that it should be floated on the stock market.

The Americans will pay also the fees of Slaughter & May and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the RAC's solicitor and merchant bank handling the sale.

## Service sector at two-year low

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SERVICE sector growth fell to its lowest level in nearly two years in May as the strong pound and the fallout from the Asian financial crisis began to take a toll on the sector.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply's service sector activity index fell sharply from 59.1 to 56.9 in May - the lowest reading since the survey began in July 1996.

Business confidence in the sector also registered its lowest reading, while growth in new orders eased back.

The survey will ally Bank of England fears that service sector growth is continuing at an unsustainable pace. The Monetary Policy Committee monthly meeting concludes today, with analysts expecting rates to be left at 7.25 per cent.

The pound slipped on the foreign exchanges ahead of today's interest rate decision, closing down about one-and-a-half pennings at DM2.9022. On its trade weighted index, sterling fell 0.4 to 103.6. The stock market profited from a strong day in the European markets with the FTSE 100 closing up 56.1 at 5,898.4. Economists, however, said

the CIPS measure of employment, which is still showing strong growth, will keep alive worries over wage inflation.

Overall inflationary pressure in the sector eased as the slowdown in new orders enabled companies to reduce the amount of outstanding business and competition continued to restrict increases in average prices charged.

## Liffe stunned by technical knockout

BY RICHARD MILES

DEUTSCHE TERMINBORSE (DTB), the Frankfurt futures and options exchange, was yesterday accused of double-counting in its efforts to get the upper hand over Liffe.

While Liffe conceded that the total number of contracts traded on the DTB in May exceeded the volume of business on the London exchange for the first time, it pointed out that this

was largely down to a technical change. Liffe said its German rival had cut the size of the option contracts on individual equity derivatives, automatically boosting its monthly trading volumes by as much as five times.

Apparently, this is an old trick in the futures and options market, where the success of an exchange is rated by the volume of trades. For example, the Brazilian exchange is among the top

five exchanges by volume, but the value of contracts is low.

A spokeswoman for Liffe said the London exchange had no plans to follow suit. "We are increasing the size of contracts because of the introduction of the Euro," she candidly admitted. Liffe remains ahead on total volumes for the year to date with 91 million trades, against 73 million for DTB.

Frankfurt struck back by claiming that the "downsizing of the options

contracts" had little impact on total volumes. It said May volumes, at 15.6 million, were less than in March before the changes were made to the size of equity option contracts.

Nevertheless, traders are increasingly choosing to deal through DTB instead of Liffe for the most important contract on the market, the bund future. Turnover on the DTB in May was 5.7 million contracts, compared with 1.2 million on Liffe.

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### Andersen abandons link with law firm

By Jon Ashworth

ARTHUR ANDERSEN has abandoned plans to link with Wilde Sapte, the 200-year-old City law firm, in a setback to the growth ambitions of both parties. The deal was the first between an established City law firm and a top accounting network. Wilde Sapte, with fee income of £52 million, was set to join the English legal practice of Arthur Andersen, bringing to 1,400 the number of lawyers in the Andersen worldwide international network of law firms. Wilde Sapte partners voted overwhelmingly for the deal.

Two Wilde Sapte partners subsequently defected to Allen & Overy, where they have formed a rival banking and finance team. The Paris office decided against joining, and several partners faced potential conflicts of interest. These factors convinced Andersen that it should walk away from the deal.

Stephen Blundell, Wilde Sapte's marketing director, said it would seek "a cooling-off period" before renewing its quest for an international partner. Steve Blakey, managing partner, said: "It's a disappointing outcome to a long negotiation that we are unable to take our City and international law firm into the Andersen legal network."

Arthur Andersen described the failure as a short-term setback, and said that it would continue to seek a partnership with a City law firm.

Andersen's legal practice, including Carreras, in England, and Dundas & Wilson, in Scotland, has 100 partners. Its network spans 1,000 lawyers in 30 nations. Commentary, page 29

# Coal crisis poised to deepen as fresh consultation is scheduled

By Christine Buckley  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to delay the crucial decision on the long-running coal crisis by opening a fresh round of consultation.

It will increase uncertainty in the industry by not making a final decision until next month, by which time emergency coal contracts will have expired. Several weeks of consultation with industry and customers will begin when

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, outlines a framework plan to secure a market for UK deep-mined coal. An announcement could be made next week.

The latest round of talks has surprised many insiders and is seen as a concession to the increasingly vocal gas lobby which has been warning of the effects on inward investment of a permanent moratorium on gas-fired power stations.

A temporary block on new gas-fired stations was set up

more than six months ago when the Government began its review of energy policy in response to the threat of widespread pit closures and the loss of up to 5,000 jobs.

With the contracts between RJB Mining and the three coal-burning generators expiring at the end of this month, sources close to the Government believe that there will be little room for a major overhaul of the plans drafted by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General.

Mr Robinson intends to set out a market for UK coal over the next five years which will involve the generators taking about 26 million tonnes this year, scaling down to 20 million tonnes. The Cabinet will today discuss the plan ahead of its publication.

Next week the Trade and Industry Select Committee will publish its review of energy which is expected to highlight fears over the lack of competition in generation. Mr Robinson is believed to

want more players in the generation market — a goal that could be achieved by forcing the generators to sell more power stations.

The threat of enforced power station sales will be a big disincentive for National Power and PowerGen, the two biggest coal-burning power producers, to co-operate. One insider said: "If an MMC inquiry were forced over power station sales then bang goes the coal industry because time will have run out."

## Monsanto chief to get \$75m

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

ROBERT SHAPIRO, the executive chairman of Monsanto, is to receive a \$75 million (£46 million) windfall on completion of the \$100 billion merger with American Home Products.

A change of control at Monsanto triggers a clause in Mr Shapiro's stock option plan that immediately converts all existing options into shares.

Mr Shapiro successfully led Monsanto to a prominent position in the biotechnology sector in recent years, prompting a steep share price increase.

Monsanto executives have traditionally taken a large part of their remuneration as share options. Mr Shapiro was paid \$1.7 million last year. John Stafford, AHP's executive chairman, was paid \$2.7 million. His options are not converted because AHP will own a majority of the combined company stock, meaning no change of control at AHP.

Mr Shapiro and Mr Stafford will lead the combined group jointly for at least one to two years, they said, but Mr Stafford is likely to be in a more powerful position. Should Mr Shapiro be forced out he will be entitled to a golden goodbye worth more than \$5 million. Mr Stafford is not eligible for a big severance package.

AHP and Monsanto have agreed to pay a \$700 million break-up fee if either finds another suitor. Zeneca, the British drugs company, had been cited as a potential Monsanto or AHP partner.



John Stafford, left, and Robert Shapiro are to lead the combined group jointly

## Russia rules out asking G7 for fresh funds

By Alasdair Murray  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Russian Government vowed yesterday not to ask the G7 for fresh financial help after a successful auction of treasury bonds helped to restore some calm to the troubled Russian markets yesterday.

Mikhail Zadornov, Russian Finance Minister, said the Government had decided as a "matter of principle" not to make a formal request to the G7 group of nations for aid.

He added that the Government was considering instead finding new finance to cover short-term debt payments from a number of sources, including private banks and further eurobond issues. The G7 is due to meet in Paris next week to discuss the Russian crisis.

Russian markets received a big boost after the Government succeeded in auctioning off a series of treasury bills at better than expected prices.

The Moscow stock exchange made substantial gains for the second consecutive day, climbing 8.5 per cent, although turnover was moderate at \$66.2 million. On the foreign exchanges, the rouble held steady at 6.16 to the dollar.

Analysts said the bonds auction provided a clear indication that sentiment towards Russia was improving.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Somerfield to invest £1bn on store facelifts

SOMERFELD, the supermarket group, is to spend more than £1 billion out of cashflow over the next four to five years to upgrade its 1,400 stores and the group's operational infrastructure. David Simons, the chief executive, said the group had decided, following its takeover of Kwik Save, to convert all its outlets, including Food Giant and Gateway stores, to the Somerfield brand.

Speaking to a conference of 2,500 Somerfield and Kwik Save managers, Mr Simons said the supermarket group would also spend a further £10 million a year on staff training. An initial ten Kwik Save stores had been identified for conversion before the end of this calendar year and about 50 were scheduled for early next year. Mr Simons added. The timetable for conversion of the remainder will be determined by customer response and an analysis of the entire supermarket portfolio. Shares in Somerfield fell 7p to 396½p on the news.

## Shopfitting jobs at risk

MORE than 400 jobs are at risk after the appointment of administrative receivers to Campbell & Armstrong, the shopfitting company. Ian Powell and Ian Schneider, of Price Waterhouse, the joint administrative receivers, said they hoped to sell the business as a going concern. Campbell & Armstrong, whose shares were suspended at 3p, has annual turnover of about £27 million. It incurred losses of £2.9 million in its last financial year.

## Reuters' rival buys WTN

REUTERS is facing an enlarged and emboldened rival in the market for news footage after the acquisition of World Television News by APTV, the newly formed video agency of Associated Press. Walt Disney's ABC News sold its 80 per cent stake in WTN to AP which also purchased 10 per cent stakes from ITN and Nine Network Australia. Reuters is believed to have bid for WTN but was beaten by AP with an estimated \$55 million (£34 million) offer.

## Compass expands in US

COMPASS, the contract caterer, is buying Restaurant Associates of America, which provides retail food services at sports events and leisure facilities, for £53.6 million. Events served by Retail Associates include the PGA golf championships, the Ryder Cup and the US Open tennis championships. Shares in Compass fell 34½p to £12.02 yesterday. Last month the company promised to call a halt to its aggressive acquisition programme, after concern over its £948 million of debt.

## Tellabs acquires Ciena

CONSOLIDATION in the US telecoms industry has reached the equipment suppliers with the \$7.1 billion (£4.3 billion) acquisition of Ciena by Tellabs. Ciena is a service company involved in improving the transmission of video sequences over phone lines as well as being a fibre-optic cable specialist. Tellabs, which paid a 14 per cent premium in the share swap, makes phone network parts. Tellabs said: "We expect the new company to accelerate the pace of evolution."

## Pension sales up 30%

A RECOVERY in demand for life insurance and pensions continued in the first quarter, with sales up 30 per cent to £7.8 billion. However, the total number of policies sold was only marginally higher, the increase in volume being due to a rise in the average policy size. New life insurance premium income was £4.3 billion, the bulk of which was single premium business, the Association of British Insurers said. Individual pensions business was £1.7 billion, up 13 per cent.

## Blick's strategic review

THE new chief executive of Blick has launched a strategic review of the manufacturer of electronic clocking-on and staff-access information systems company. Mark Aldridge, who was appointed in April, expects to implement a new strategic plan later this year. Blick reported a modest rise in pre-tax profits to £6.5 million, from £6.15 million, for the six months to March 31. Earnings per share were 14.76p (13.54p). The interim dividend is increased to 5p from 4.5p.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.77	2.89
Austria Sch	21.42	19.78
Belgium Fr	65.03	59.07
Canada \$	2.55	2.27
Cyprus Cyp£	0.898	0.825
Denmark Kr	11.84	10.75
Finland Mk	9.37	8.62
France Fr	10.20	9.42
Germany Dm	3.07	2.82
Greece Dr	519	491
Hong Kong \$	13.22	12.32
Iceland Kr	129	118
Ireland P	1.20	1.12
Israel Shk	6.26	5.71
Italy Lira	3053	2795
Japan Yen	241.07	229.54
Malta	0.672	0.613
Netherlands Gld	3.461	3.188
New Zealand \$	3.26	3.02
Norway Kr	12.82	11.88
Portugal Esc	308.78	287.75
S Africa Rd	9.08	8.10
Spain Pta	267.85	239.16
Sweden Kr	13.54	12.44
Switzerland Fr	2.27	2.25
Turkey Lira	497059	407181
USA \$	1.745	1.697

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Tandem 'open to talks' SkyePharma seeks cash

ROBIN BROMLEY-MARTIN, chief executive of Tandem Group, said the board of the troubled bicycle manufacturer had not closed the door on talks with rebel shareholders who yesterday requisitioned an extraordinary meeting to oust him and two other directors (Jason Nisse writes).

The rebels, led by Maurice Cowen, a Leeds solicitor, want to turn the group into a racecourse investment company and will issue a circular next week.

Shareholders are due to vote on the plans on June 30.

Mr Bromley-Martin said the rebels had not given Tandem enough detail of their plans for the board to recommend it to shareholders. "That is not to say their proposals are not without merit," he added. Mr Bromley-Martin also said it would not be fair to force him out as he only joined Tandem last year and had yet to implement his plans for the loss-making group.

SKYEPHARMA, the drug development company, is to raise up to £31 million through a US share offering that will also produce a similar amount of money for Jacques Gonella, the director who founded its principal business (Paul Durman writes).

Dr Gonella, who recently stepped down as deputy chairman, acquired 29.7 per cent of SkyePharma when he sold it Jago, his Swiss drug delivery specialist, two years ago.

Ian Gowrie-Smith, SkyePharma's chairman, said that he had asked Dr Gonella to sell some of his stock to ensure sufficient liquidity in the trading of the company's shares on the Nasdaq exchange in the US.

The fund-raising, SkyePharma's third in a year, will enable it to acquire new technologies. In 1998's first four months, SkyePharma had an operating loss of £5.1 million, only £100,000 more than in the same period of 1997.



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NFC to shareholder

Shanks & highest

Akzo seeks buyer for

By CARL MORTON... AKZO NOBEL plant... Courtauld... private... troubled... two companies... The Dur... planned to... finally merged... from Donald... here has re... private sale... The Courtauld... sep yesterday... from that... coatings... owned plan... competing... US bank...



# Burns night for the Chancellor

## COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

So farewell, Sir Terry Burns. The Treasury's redoubtable Permanent Secretary, the official most closely associated with Margaret Thatcher's love affair with monetarism, the man appointed to the top job just a year before the ignominy of sterling's departure from the ERM, has walked the plank.

Never was such a high-profile Whitehall departure so unsurprising. Pace the insistence of Gordon Brown's closest advisors that relations between the Chancellor and Sir Terry have been as cosy as could be, it has long been the conventional wisdom in SW1 that the two were barely on speaking terms.

From the very early days of Mr Brown's Chancellorship, dark mutterings were emerging from Parliament Street about the relationship between the incoming Chancellor and the Treasury civil service. Officials felt cut out of the loop, with policy largely formulated behind the closed doors of the Chancellor's private office of special advisers. Civil servants would discover the next policy on Mr Brown's agenda when his economic adviser or spin doctor had briefed it or leaked it to the press.

In short, the feeling was that the Chancellor did not trust a Treasury machine that had served the Conservative Party for the past 18 years. Gradually, some younger officials have found favour with the top man but Sir Terry was apparently

never able to shift his perceived ideological baggage.

We do not know whether Sir Terry has left of his own accord or whether he was pushed but, for all Mr Brown's flattery on his departure, it is hard not to see Sir Terry's life peering as anything other than a *quid pro quo* for going quietly, however much he may deserve the honour.

This episode could be quietly filed away under "personality clash" but for a creeping unease about the way that the Treasury under Mr Brown is operating. Discomfort about Mr Brown's reliance on his small coterie remains, but there are many other complaints. The Chancellor's critics say, for example, that his team only wants to look at best-case scenarios, does not listen to advice, is excessively secretive, some even say anti-democratic.

One instance of the latter that opposition parties found infuriating was that Mr Brown saw fit to break with the Budget Day tradition by which their spokesmen would be given sight of salient details of the Budget in order to mount a credible critique in the parliamentary debate. The papers provided this year had been doctored to ex-

clude all-important figures. The Treasury team is also accused of blocking parliamentary questions, to facts that might speak badly of its record.

Chancellors have never cared much for popularity, nor should they. Nevertheless, Mr Brown, open about the extent of his political ambitions, may come to rue his apparent carelessness about building and nurturing relationships.

### Railtrack's guarantee

Building railway lines is not the simple business that it is used to be when the Victorians did it. There will be only 42 miles of track between the mouth of the Channel Tunnel and Fawkhams Junction in Kent, henceforth to be known by the unlovely name of Ebbsfleet, but getting it built is proving incredi-

bly complicated, not to say expensive. The result will be just 15 minutes off the journey time of Eurostar passengers. Railtrack is convinced that the exercise will be worthwhile and has negotiated a deal with the Government that should ensure that Railtrack shareholders benefit as much as cross-Channel commuters.

As if by magic John Prescott seems to have found a way to overcome one of the toughest problems to have dogged the private finance initiative since it was first dreamed up as a means of getting big infrastructure projects built without emptying the public purse. The hapless London & Continental Railways, which is now reduced to a financing vehicle for Railtrack's project, will raise funds with the benefit of government guarantees. But because Mr Prescott judges the chances of the guarantees being called as slender in the extreme, they are apparently not to be judged as a liability.

With that sort of approach, there should be no obstacle to pushing ahead with the new hospital plans that have stalled on the issue of guarantees.

Yesterday Railtrack was also sounding confident that the second phase of the project would go ahead, taking the fast rail link round North London and into St Pancras. But Sir Bob Horton, the chairman, and Gerald Corbett, chief executive, are wily enough to know not to commit themselves to that until after the regulator has conducted his review in 2000. If the company is to be able to go ahead with its investment plans, including phase two of the fast link, then it is essential that it can make the profits that it needs to fund investment. The regulator will be independent of the Government, but it is to be hoped that he grasps the importance of the extra 20 minutes that phase two could shave from the journey time to Paris or Brussels.

Intriguingly, British Airways is taking precautions against that time-saving winning some of its business. Although it has reduced its stake to 10 per cent for fear of upsetting the regulators, BA is nonetheless part of the company that has won the contract to operate Eurostar, and piquantly, beat the consortium that includes Virgin for the job.

### Mis-charging blame mis-directed

After the furore over pensions mis-selling by those who lured innocent workers out of occupational schemes, here come allegations of mis-charging by those very same schemes for re-instating their former members. If the perpetrators of the first offence have their way, Treasury Minister Helen Liddell may soon be naming and shaming new targets.

But while it may seem slightly excessive for BT to levy a charge of £500 plus VAT for bringing back into its pension fold a soul who had been led astray, the occupational funds could not be expected to hoist the welcome flag and waive any fee. The rush into personal pensions deprived

them of funds when many of them were offering members a reasonable deal. When, eventually, those who had sold the personal pensions were prodded into investigating where there just might have been some mis-selling, the forms with which they hit the occupational schemes were sufficient to batter them comatose.

It is hardly surprising if the occupational schemes want to be fully reimbursed for the costs involved in reinstating those members they did not want to lose. They may even feel a donation by way of apology would be appropriate. The stigmatised mis-sellers have little choice but to pay up. Which of them would dare to mention that it was the Government which threw itself so totally behind the idea of personal pensions that was guilty, at the very least, of aiding and abetting?

### Terms of enrichment

The massive payout to John Willis, late of Channel 4, eloquently demonstrates why investors are clamouring for contracts to be restricted to one year. Mr Willis's treatment indicates just why executives feel happier with rather longer terms. But whatever contracts say, companies have a duty to their shareholders to mitigate any compensation. Was Channel 4 over-generous to Mr Willis, who is happily in a new job.

## NFC to return £307m to shareholders in buyback

BY FRASER NELSON

NFC, the £1.3 billion lorry operator that runs Pickfords and Exel Logistics, is to return £307 million to shareholders after a year of selling off its most cash-absorbing businesses.

Shares of NFC added 3½p to 181p yesterday after the company promised to buy back 25 per cent of its share capital. It will pay an expected 176p and issue three new shares for every four shares held.

Gerry Murphy, chief executive, said the company had decided against building an acquisition war chest as all possible bid targets are too expensive.

He said: "We need to grow organically and make a few bolt-on acquisitions. There is

no value anywhere for any larger deal."

He said that the disposals — Lynx, its truck lease division and cold storage division — all required heavy amounts of money to maintain them. Their absence has left the company with an extra £250 million in the past 12 months alone, he added.

The £7.1 million profit that the group made on its series of disposals allowed an increase in pre-tax profits to £59.4 million (£53.3 million on underlying sales of £1.09 billion (£1.07 billion) for the six months to March 31.

Its Exel Logistics division in America was the star performer, after hitching on to the US car-building industry and retail sector. It has recently won

a contract to bring car parts to Volkswagen's new Beetle factory in Mexico.

Exel's British arm fared worse. Although it enjoyed substantial business from Rover, J Sainsbury and Tesco over the year, losses from its newspapers and books delivery contracts limited operating profits to £28.3 million (£27.2 million).

Mr Murphy said that its French chilled food network remained the company's black spot. It will this year attempt to cut costs by increasing the proportion of part-time drivers, who currently make up a quarter of its 2,000-strong French workforce.

He intends to use similar tactics to pull the group's German frozen food distribu-

tion network into the black. In the UK, where it still generates just more than half of group profits, it is in talks to sell more of its 300 depots and warehouses used by both Pickfords and Exel. Over the year, it sold 50 depots and closed another 50.

Mr Murphy said that the reductions are necessary because Volvo, which bought its BRS truck rental arm in January, will soon stop using NFC depots.

The interim dividend drops to 2p (2.5p), due on August 17. The buyback is being structured in a complex manner which will provide shareholders with cash which will escape income tax. Details will be published at the end of the month.

## BUP aided by Reuters shares sale

BRISTOL United Press continued the flow of good news from the regional newspaper industry with a 53.9 per cent increase in operating profits to £11.3 million for the year to March 31 (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The pre-tax profit of £14.5 million compared with £8.4 million last time and included £3 million in exceptional profit — mainly from the sale of Reuters shares.

Group turnover rose from £62.5 million to £73.1 million with £50.2 million coming from the printing and publishing of newspapers. All its paid-for newspapers had circulations that were either rising or static.

Earnings per share before exceptional rose by 53.6 per cent to 31.9p and the dividend has increased by 11.5 per cent to 17p.

## Ladbroke merger bad for punters, say MPs

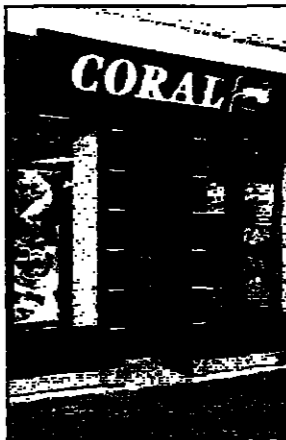
BY JON ASHWORTH

LADBROKE, the betting and hotels group, has seen its £363 million purchase of Coral, the betting shop chain, come under heavy fire from MPs, who say that it reduces competition and leaves consumers worse off.

The deal, currently the subject of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) inquiry, is against the public interest, according to an independent report commissioned by MPs who are opposed to the deal.

Alan Meale, the Labour MP for Mansfield, who commissioned the report, said: "Independent experts have confirmed my view that this merger is bad news for the punter and bad news for racing as a whole."

He added: "I shall be sending the report to the MMC and to Margaret Beckett and calling on them to block the merger in the public interest."



Coral: call to stop the sale

and Mrs Beckett, the trade secretary, referred the deal to the MMC in April. She said the purchase raised competition

concerns in relation to the off-course betting market. Ladbroke and Coral together speak for 36 per cent of the total off-course bookmaking turnover.

The *Economia UK* report concludes that average prices for consumers will increase, and choice will be reduced. It says that the 1989 merger of Mecca and William Hill offered "incomplete analysis" and cannot be used as a basis for assessing the impact of the Ladbroke and Coral merger.

It concludes: "There are justifiable reasons for believing that the Ladbroke-Coral merger may act against the public interest."

Ladbroke said that the company had not seen the report, but added that the claims did not appear to be supported by the facts.

The MMC is expected to report its findings next month.

## Shanks & McEwan at highest for five years

BY ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

SHARES IN Shanks & McEwan, the waste disposal company, rose to their highest point for five years yesterday after it told of a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits and gave an upbeat assessment of prospects.

Shares added 12½p to close at 197½p. Pre-tax profits rose to £27 million from £24 million as the company, where Michael Averill is chief executive and David Downes finance director, squeezed better prices out of clients who send it waste for landfill disposal.

Rechem, which deals with more troublesome waste, made £1.3 million (£927,000) of operating profits in the year to March 28. The contribution from bulk waste disposal was £28.2 million (£24.5 million).

The acquisition of four Belgian companies for £66 million in March did not contribute to profits but money borrowed to finance the deal sent gearing spiralling to over 100 per cent.

Earnings per share grew to 8.9p (7.7p). The final dividend is 2.8p (2.6p) making a total of 4.2p, up 8 per cent.

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David Downes, left, with Michael Averill yesterday

## Levi Strauss lets public 'blend' CDs

BY CHRIS AYRES

SHOPPERS will today be able to buy compact discs from the world's first "virtual record store" when it is launched in London by Levi Strauss, the American jeans manufacturer.

The high-tech kiosk lets shoppers choose their own selection of tracks, and then "burns" them on to a disc while they wait. It poses a huge threat to traditional music retailers, such as Virgin and HMV. Supermarkets, motorway service stations and other clothing retailers are already in talks with Cerberus, the maker of the kiosk, to offer similar services.

Levi's, whose television advertisements have revived his such as Marvin Gaye's *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*, will launch the kiosk at its Regent Street store. It will have a touch-screen and headphones, and will allow shoppers to pick a range of music, mainly by dance artists.

The 74-minute CDs will cost £4.99 — a third of the price of most popular CDs — but there are plans to charge by the second of music bought.

Ricky Adar, 32, a former satellite engineer, founded Cerberus in 1995 with £250,000.

## Akzo seeks private buyer for fibres

BY CARL MORTSHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

AKZO NOBEL, the triumphant Dutch bidder for Courtaulds, is hoping to find a private buyer for the troubled fibres businesses of the two companies.

The Dutch company had planned to float off fibres when the companies are finally merged, but interest from Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette has raised hopes of a private sale.

The share price of Courtaulds slumped 20p to 445p yesterday, on confirmation that PPG, the American coatings group, had abandoned plans to launch a competing bid with DJJ, the US bank, for the UK chemi-

cals group. The Dutch bidder has agreed to sell two of Courtaulds US coatings businesses to PPG for £175 million after Akzo's bid is completed. PPG is believed to have approached Akzo late last week with its proposal.

According to insiders, the American company told Akzo that it had two options — either to bid for Courtaulds or to buy some of its assets from Akzo.

Sources close to the deal believe that PPG's partner, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, may still be interested in taking over the merged fibres making of Akzo and Courtaulds.

## Morland brews 19% increase in profit

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

MORLAND, the brewer of Old Speckled Hen, the strong beer, reported a 19 per cent rise in underlying profits. Operating profits at the company rose from £7.9 million to £8.7 million in the last half year.

Operating profits were helped by the contributions from two acquisitions. In February last year it paid £33 million for Exchange Bar Diners, a chain of American style eateries located in leisure parks and fringe of town shopping centres. Last October it paid £6.5 million for the Ruddles brewing operation.

Martin Bays-Smith, chairman, said: "Both Ruddles and Exchange Bar Diners have

been successfully integrated and are making significant contributions to our business." Pre-tax profits were reduced because of a £1.3 million one-off cost incurred closing the Langham brewery in Rutland, which came with the Ruddles purchase. Pre-tax profits also carried a greater interest burden because of the acquisitions.

In the six months to March 31 pre-tax profit fell to £6.6 million (£6.8 million). This fell through to a decline in unjustified earnings per share from 17.3p to 15p. The dividend rises to 4p a share (3.79p).

Tempus, page 30

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**M**ahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's hypersensitive Prime Minister, is not fashionable in the West. He tends to rail. But his challenge to the market mechanisms that have plunged most of Asia's successful developing economies into recession contains some home truths.

"Absolute capitalism" had become a new tyranny, Dr Mahathir argued last week. "A system that was designed to free people from stifling government regulations and enable them to prosper through their own initiative and labour has now resulted in the suppression of that very freedom and brought about misery for people," he charged, in the name of the free market.

The tide of speculation was certainly capricious. It engulfed alike the currencies of countries with deep imbalances and those in Eddie George, no slouch in such matters, has just confessed that it caught him by surprise. Hong Kong's dollar survived only because its reserves are huge and

## Lam's new idea for financial recycling



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

its currency board system, which automatically translates selling into punitive overnight interest rates, makes speculation costly. China's exchange rate survived because it has wisely retained foreign exchange controls, instead of rushing unarmed into the global financial system.

Speculators are often catalysts for change that is needed, but too hard for politicians to grasp, as when George Soros attacked sterling in 1992. The next year, the emboldened band pointlessly smashed the rest of the European exchange-rate mechanism. Once the dust settled, it sprang back into shape, determined to move to a single currency.

The International Monetary Fund was once thought of as a global insurance policy to help to calm things down and stop imbalances in one country infecting the rest. The IMF failed in the contra-

gious Mexican crisis, which had to be cleared up by America. Much soul-searching followed. Lessons were supposedly learnt, to ensure faster response. But the Asian wave finally discredited the IMF. Not least, it simply lacks the resources to cope. A 1940s structure set up to prevent a recurrence of 1930s beggar-thy-neighbour policies is not suited to an era dominated by huge flows of short-term private finance. In Indonesia and Korea, the IMF even made things worse, appearing to act as an agent of US interests.

If small countries are to take their place in the global market economy, without their people becoming playthings of global finance, the postwar settlement needs to be swept away and new institutions brought in. Otherwise, the Mexican/Asian crisis will repeat often, blighting the progress of South Asia, China, the former

Authority. Mr Lam argues that the World Bank and regional development banks, which have powers to borrow, could be given the new role of recycling liquidity. The Bank for International Settlement might also help the process. This is being formulated as a proposal for a committee looking at the consequences of the crisis led by Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, one of many such post mortems.

For most involved, the Asian crash was a liquidity problem that turned into an insolvency problem because there was no lender of last resort. The IMF could not fill this role even if it wished, because it cannot borrow on the markets.

In practice, the Asian Development Bank would be the likely pioneer for such a move. Mr Lam says that Hong Kong would be prepared to lend part of its own \$96 billion of reserves to help other countries faced by a speculative

liquidity crisis via an international institution that could take the risk, but could not do so directly. There is certainly no shortage of reserves in that part of the world, Japan, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan top the world ranking for official foreign exchange reserves. Together they have about \$520 billion, three times more than Germany and the US combined.

Some could be invested in bonds issued by regional development banks or the World Bank, instead of being invested in other Western markets. The development banks could also issue bonds to foreign creditor banks of countries such as Indonesia, taking on the original loans themselves. Commercial banks taking advantage of this facility would, however, only be able to exchange their loans at a heavy discount to avoid taking the risk out of bad lending. The International Monetary Fund

would have to be involved. Mr Lam concedes, perhaps as a sophisticated credit rating agency. Even lenders of last resort do not lend to the insolvent. Borrowing limits of development banks would also need to be raised.

The proposal has the practical advantage that it would not ask the US to pump in money. An earlier Japanese proposal for an Asian Monetary Fund was quickly sat on by Washington, which did not want to dilute the IMF's power. Mr Lam's relatively modest idea deserves a better fate, at least as the basis for new thinking in the 1970s. Takeshi Watanabe, the ADB's first president, argued that the global economy needed a world central bank or finance ministry but politics ruled it. "If only international organisations could form a consensus on global economic management" he mused. *Plus ça change.*

The Asian crisis showed that even Washington cannot cope with the flows unleashed in today's global markets. We must allow someone else to try.

## Philanthropy hides harsh truths about absence or failure of policy



AMERICAN AGENDA  
BRONWEN MADDOX

**T**he gospel of philanthropy is the latest fashion. It seems, on both sides of the Atlantic. This was inevitable, given the height of the stock markets, which even in the US, eventually makes riches an embarrassment. But if it reflects how much the public now demands from businesses and their leaders, it is misguided. If it is a sign of how little they expect of government, it is deeply unfortunate.

The sanctimonious force and practical vagueness of the new creed was captured this week in Britain's new Children's Promise campaign. Set up by Marks & Spencer, it calls on the entire British workforce to donate an hour's pay from this century to "create a better future for children". The questions of which children would be helped, and how, were not answered. To help them, you normally have to help their parents, and in Western societies that is often taken as one of the routine jobs of government. But for all the lack of details, the coercive tone was clear. Peter Mandelson said he had no doubt his Cabinet colleagues would follow in giving their final hour's pay to the cause; they depart from that message at their peril.

In the US, in the way of these things, the phenomenon is bigger, the bullying tone stronger, and it is directed with particular force against businesses. Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, is now chided by members of Congress not only for using unfair tactics against his rivals but for being a slouch at corporate giving; in a rush to catch the spirit of the times, he is now scrambling to pour money into libraries, and has promised eventually to give away nine tenths of his wealth. Scarcely a



Colin Powell and Bill Clinton aimed to inspire community spirit but may have concealed governmental shortcomings

day goes by without an announcement of a new donation by some corporate titan. Indeed, scarcely a week passes without one from financier George Soros, who this week pledged millions to support young lawyers who wanted to work for battered women, the homeless, Native Americans and migrant farm workers.

The science of giving can now absorb a lifetime's energy, we are told. This week, Think New Ideas, an Internet marketing company based in New York, announced that its founder and chairman was leaving "to pursue a career in philanthropy". Meanwhile, schools have sprung up to teach the mega-rich how to give better: the Rockefeller Foundation Course in Practical Philanthropy, which costs \$20,000 (£12,000) for four weeks a year, gives its students a diet of Aristotle, meditation,

lessons in reading a balance sheet, and field trips to Third World countries to see poverty at first hand.

In a sense, this revival of US philanthropy is curious. True, there is the Rockefeller tradition — those tycoons who built in mortar and steel the fabric of a new country, and then poured back their wealth into more of the same.

But at the same time, the US has often given short shrift to the notion that businesses earn their wealth by virtue of the society around them. In a country where taxation remains for many a symbol of overbearing government, there is still a sense that a corporate pioneer, battling at the frontier, has earned his own riches.

Instead, the new censoriousness by which companies are now judged springs from a competing tradition, the intensely strong sense of community, which exhorts neighbours to pick up litter outside the local school and donate pies to the homeless at Thanksgiving. In the face of the stock market boom, with leaps in wealth undeniable, these old impulses are demanding that companies visibly put something back into the society around them.

In US politics, there is also a thin line between charitable giving and lobbying. The Washington Gas Light Company raised many eyebrows when it gave money to a little-known non-profit group founded by the Maryland Governor's wife, as did Bell Atlantic and a poultry farm, a builder and a brokerage.

Donations are often an inefficient, patchy way of bringing about social improvement. A year ago, as part of the America's Promise campaign, President Clinton and half his Cabinet, 20 former presidents, a host of corporate grandees and 5,000 volunteers descended on Philadelphia and covered miles of graffiti with beige paint. Although headed by former General Colin Powell, the US's appointed Minister without Portfolio, it has had some success in spawning neigh-

bourhood efforts, but has been criticised for weak follow-up.

Most importantly, the wave of philanthropy may conceal the absence or failure of government policies. The poverty behind US affluence is still there, 36 years after Michael Harrington's *The Other America* shocked the country. Mississippi Delta slums may have running water, courtesy of the state's gambling licences, but the disintegrating tobacco farms of Tennessee and Kentucky could take their place.

So we have White Knight Soros, again, putting \$1 million into the distribution of clean needles to drug addicts, a programme that the White House enthusiastically supports — except that earlier this month it declined to back the scheme itself. Soros is giving \$25 million a year for five years to boost after-school activities in New York state. And his new programme for law students follows a one-third cut in federally funded legal aid programmes.

It would be churlish not to see some good in the new fashion. The willingness to make donations shown by businesses and their leaders may signal a new acknowledgement that they have responsibilities to the society in which they make their wealth. It may be easier to persuade them to pay taxes or to respect their environmental responsibilities without having to codify those notions in laws as cumbersome as Superfund. The public is right to expect that behaviour from businesses — but provided those obligations are respected, there should be no embarrassment in corporate wealth.

The current danger is that the new censoriousness heralds a return to business-bashing, in which people demand things from companies that they should properly demand of government. It is the US Government, not the tobacco industry, that should have the job of trying to persuade teenagers not to smoke, as legislation apparently envisages. It is good of George Soros to care about The Other America, but neither he nor Bill Gates are responsible for it — or can do much about it.

That job lies in the White House and on Capitol Hill. The fashion for philanthropy may simply obscure it.

## Survey shows that it really is good for firms to talk

**M**edia gurus and the high-tech companies they work for are so keen to tell us how we will be doing business in ten years' time, that sometimes the mundane matter of making money now seems irrelevant. It appears that many companies have fallen for this technological hype, and have forgotten how to use one of the most basic tools of modern commerce: the telephone.

A study published by Datamonitor this week shows that a surprising number of European businesses are losing customers because they are not using their telephones effectively.

The report suggests that suppliers should view the companies they do business with as long-term lovers, who should be constantly pampered to stop them running off with someone else.

Datamonitor's research shows that most companies are surprisingly tolerant of potential suppliers cold calling them phoning them without prior warning.

Only 30 per cent of the 1,000 companies interviewed in nine different European countries (most of whom had spending power of at least £10 million) said they disliked being cold called, making the risk of infidelity alarmingly high.

Many companies seem to treat their relationships with suppliers as stale marriages, and simply do not bother to ask if they are satisfied. One company said it had been persuaded to switch to a new supplier partly by them phoning up to wish them a Merry Christmas. In an increasingly automated business world, the personal touch still seems to matter.

The findings of the report also have implications for call centres. Companies in all nine European countries said that the most important factor in speaking to a call centre employee was that the person on the other end of the line was efficient and knew what they were talking about.

Only the French said it was important for call centre employees to speak their native language, with companies in other countries arguing that the first language of those taking calls was not an important issue. This suggests that companies which base their call centres abroad, perhaps to take advantage of lower labour costs, can still operate in domestic markets.

The main thrust of the report, however, seems to be that many companies are failing to build proper relationships with their customers over the telephone.



THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

The fact that most companies do not object to being cold called by potential suppliers — even from abroad — suggests that those which fail put in some extra effort and turn on the charm will ultimately find themselves losing business.

□ THE battle to dominate the emerging market for V-Chips — the devices that automatically censor television programmes — intensified in America this week. Parental Guide, the leading V-Chip developer, said its product would be on sale by June in Omaha, the only American city to currently broadcast using the V-Chip codes. For now, the company only manufactures set-top boxes for old televisions, but will face a fierce battle with its competitors to get its technology licensed by a large electronics corporation. The US Government has made it law for all televisions to contain V-Chips by 2000, and Britain is thought to be considering similar proposals.



Barclays' car-friendly cash

□ THE first drive-through cash machine in Britain, installed last week by Barclays Bank, is already doing out cash at more than double the rate of its two wall-mounted predecessors. The machine, at Hatton Cross near Heathrow, has been inspired by cash points in America which allow motorists to withdraw money without having to find a parking space. Barclays says it will wait a further six months to see if the machine is a success, and will then decide whether or not to embark on a national roll-out.

CHRIS AYRES

## Lost and fund

**TO LOSE** one fund manager may be careless, but to lose two, especially from the same funds, looks less than clever. Stuart Mitchell, the man asked by Morgan Grenfell Asset Management to rehabilitate two of its flagship funds in the wake of the Peter Young affair, has jumped ship.

Mitchell, 33, is joining J O Hambro, the small private client asset management company, as head of specialist European equities. The attraction is an equity stake, something he would not see at Morgan Grenfell. It seems an abrupt move.



Young successor leaves MGAM

less than two years after he took over. He claims it is now possible to hand over control of his brace of funds to his team, after a restructuring to weed out the bogus, high-tech unlisted Scandinavian stocks. "At their peak, the two funds were valued at £650 million," says Mitchell. "Today they are worth £620 million."

● THE Manchester office of KPMG has always held a summer dinner dance for staff, but the problem has been to find a venue large enough to fit in all 550 of them and their partners. This year they thought they had hit on a solution, the Europa Suite at Old Trafford football ground, home of United. But someone had not reckoned with the tribalism of the city's football fans, because while my man at KPMG assures me ticket sales are going well, there is a hard core of City fans among KPMG staff boycotting the do. City, by coincidence, is a KPMG client. United is not.

### Forced wedding

TIME was when Barings was a toffee-nosed merchant bank that did pretty much what it pleased and Williams de Broe a rather fringe stockbroker. Then came Nick Leeson, and ING bought Barings. Now, after the

THE TIMES  
CITY DIARY

Dutch bank's purchase of Banque Bruxelles Lambert, which owned 80 per cent of the broker, both are virtually under the same roof. There has been much speculation as to just what the Dutch will do with the stake. I hear that some people at Williams de Broe are now suggesting a merger with Barings. They also have a good idea for a name — Williams de Broe Barings, reflecting the two groups' relative standings in the City these days. The check of it.

### Triple trouble

DAVID HURST-BROWN, a director of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, seems to be having a run of bad luck. His clients include Anite Group, Thorn

and Azlan. Anite is the former electronics high-flyer that was in trouble with the Stock Exchange after failing to disclose serious trading problems for months after they became apparent. Thorn is the Radio Rentals group, a complete disaster ever since it was demerged from Thorn EMI by SBC Warburg in August 1996, which is now trying to break itself up into even smaller pieces.

And Azlan is another computer company where last year's £15 million profit turned out to be a £14 million loss, and where the Serious Fraud Office is now investigating suspected false accounting. A case of troubles coming in threes?

● JT SEEMS Lord Hollick, the United News & Media chief, is serious about expanding into the US. He has hired the heavyweight Ricardo Tejada as director of communications. A former economic adviser to Robert Reich, Labour Secretary in Clinton's first Administration, Tejada was doing a spot of consulting for the World Bank when the headhunters called. No salaries revealed, but he can't be coming much cheaper than Hollick himself.

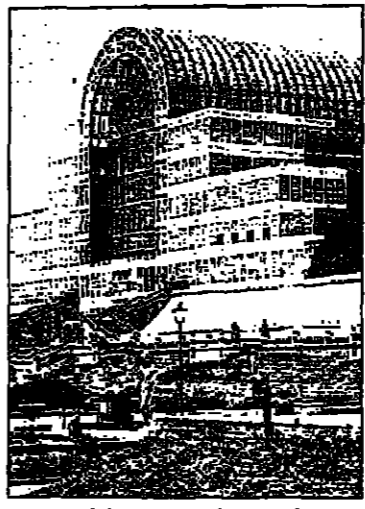
### Palace ticket

AN UNUSUAL opportunity later this month to buy a share in 2001 Great Exhibition Ltd, a company created to put on an event that may or may not take place. John Greatrex, a

special needs teacher from Peterborough, is trying to persuade Hyde Park to let him put up a scale replica of the pavilion in which the 1851 Great Exhibition was held, later transplanted to Crystal Palace.

Greatrex, a Great Exhibition buff, first mooted the idea in a letter to *The Times* in 1991, having founded the company four years earlier. He owns nearly all the 100 shares in existence and is auctioning one the weekend after next. The certificate is only going to fetch a nominal sum, but he hopes to attract financial support. I have no idea of his chances of success, but this has to be the most speculative investment ever.

MARTIN WALLER



The old Crystal Palace building

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Equities squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Air France', 'Peak p', and 'Bugged by talk'.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.



# Air France strike opens way for BA subsidiary

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

BRITISH AIRWAYS and Air Liberté, its French subsidiary, have an unparalleled opportunity to open up the French market as a result of the strike by pilots at Air France, analysts said yesterday.

Industrial action on the eve of the World Cup has already cost the state-owned airline at least Fr300 million (£30 million) and done incalculable damage to an image that it was carefully trying to rebuild.

The strike came as Air France announced a return to

profit six months before its partial privatisation.

Although designated as the "official World Cup airline", Air France has had to tell supporters to use other carriers to travel to the tournament that begins next week. Yesterday, the company cancelled more than 80 per cent of its long-haul flights and about two-thirds of its domestic flights.

Air Liberté, the French airline in which BA bought a 70 per cent stake in January 1997, is likely to be the main beneficiary of the three-day stoppage. With about four million customers a year, it is Air France's most serious rival in the French domestic market, the biggest in Europe.

The airline, which absorbed the second of BA's French subsidiaries, TAT, last year, already has a 20 per cent share of the market on some of France's most profitable routes, such as Paris-Toulouse. Having reduced its losses from Fr1.5 billion in 1996 to Fr700 million last year, it hopes to break even by the end of the century.

Analysts said Air Liberté was certain to pick up air travellers disillusioned with Air France following the latest in a long line of strikes.

Pilots took action in protest at management plans to reduce their starting salaries from Fr350,000 a year to Fr240,000 as part of a package designed to bring Fr3 billion savings.

Although the company made profits of Fr1.8 billion last year, it remains uncompetitive in comparison with European rivals such as British Airways and Lufthansa. Having been kept afloat since 1993 by state subsidies of about Fr20 billion, the French airline is planning a Fr40 billion investment programme over the next five years.

The French Government wants to reduce the state's stake from 97 per cent to about 53 per cent this autumn.



Fred Maguire, chief executive of Lookers, which saw record demand for new cars

## Lookers accelerates to £4.2m

DEMAND for new cars hit record levels in the early months of this year, leading to record profits for Lookers, one of Britain's largest car dealers (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company, which yesterday reported record half-year profits, said that demand for new cars grew by 13 per cent

in the first quarter of 1998 — the highest growth for five years. It added that the Government's decision to add £25 to new car registration fees from April 1 served only to heighten demand as customers pulled April orders forward to avoid the extra levy.

Allan Marston, finance director, said: "It is strange that

£25 should matter for a £12,000 car, but it definitely seems to have had an effect." Pre-tax profits rose to £4.2 million, from £4 million, for the six months to March 31, in line with City expectations. Earnings per share were 7.3p (6.2p).

An interim dividend of 2.6p (same) is due on September 30.

## Heal's in talks over new store openings

BY GEORGE SIVELL

HEAL'S, the department store that floated off on the stock market in March 1997, hopes to be opening a fourth store. The group raised pre-tax profits by 28 per cent to £2.15 million in the half year to March 28, on sales up 13 per cent to £15 million.

Earnings rose from 9.1p to 12p, out of which a maiden interim dividend of 2p will be paid.

Martin Boase, chairman, said: "All three stores performed ahead of expectations. We are hopeful of securing a new store soon. We are currently negotiating on specific sites, and have other possibilities to explore. Meanwhile, we are experiencing a healthy and sustainable level of growth from our existing stores."

"Current trading shows sales for the year to date 12 per cent ahead. Sales growth remains in line with our expectations and we are confident of a very satisfactory result for the full year."

Colin Pilgrim, chief executive, said that Heal's is currently negotiating on two specific sites — one in the North and one in the South East.

He added: "These things are never done until they are done. But if we do conclude our negotiations successfully on both of those [sites] it will see us with a couple of new stores in 1999. These negotiations, whichever way they go, will be concluded one way or another in the next four to six weeks."

At present, Heal's operates in London's Tottenham Court Road and King's Road, and Guildford, Surrey.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Crediton to expand Devon gold search

CREDITON MINERALS, the company exploring mid-Devon for gold, is to expand its search after promising survey results. Minmet, the Irish company that owns almost 80 per cent of Crediton Minerals, said yesterday its most recent drilling shows "further evidence of elevated gold values over a wide area". The Crediton gold mineralisation has close similarities to deposits in northern Bohemia in the Czech Republic at Stupna where gold has been mined for hundreds of years, it said.

"In view of these encouraging results Crediton will be expanding its exploration activities on a number of other similar targets in the Crediton Trough licence area in order to establish a general mineral resource picture. This programme will be conducted over the next two to three years and will involve a wide range of innovative exploration techniques and will include further drilling."

## Havelock warning

SHARES in Havelock Europa fell from 135p to 117½p after the construction group told the annual meeting that it expected a small loss in the first half. Norman Lessele, the outgoing chairman, said: "Although the value of orders received by both divisions — retail interiors and point of sale — during the first five months remains ahead of that for the same period last year, margins remain under severe pressure and there is little sign of any likely improvement in the immediate future."

## BICC deal cleared

MARGARET BECKETT, President of the Board of Trade, has cleared the proposed exchange of cable assets between BICC and Delta. The agreement, announced on February 12, will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. BICC will transfer its building wire business to Delta in exchange for Delta's utility power cable and accessory and elastomeric cables business. BICC is to close the Delta Brimsdown and Swansea power cable plants.

## Record assets at Evans

EVANS OF LEEDS, the property company, raised its net asset value above £200 million for the first time in the year to March 31. The net asset value rose from £177 million to £202.2 million, or from 133p to 151.31p a share, and the value of the property portfolio from £273.6 million to £300 million. Pre-tax profits increased from £12.6 million to £13.9 million and adjusted earnings went up from 6.90p to 8.01p. The total dividend rises 10.9 per cent to 3.76p after a 2.59p final.

## Caffyns up on full-year

CAFFYNS, the auto distributor based in Sussex, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.9 million from £1.3 million in the year to the end of March. This was despite a fall in turnover to £162.6 million from £165.6 million owing to three branch closures and the loss of five forecourt operations. Earnings per share are 46.6p, from 29.7p. Total dividend is increased to 14p from 12.5p, with an 8.5p final. The shares rose 2½p to 360p. Relocation costs are expected to hamper the current year.

## Hawtin looks overseas

HAWTIN, the leisure equipment group, raised pre-tax profits from £603,000 to £1 million in the half-year to March 31 on sales of £21 million, up from £20.4 million. Earnings rose by 59 per cent to 0.92p out of which the half-year dividend rises 14 per cent to 0.6p. The board said: "Individual companies have benefited from management changes and satisfactory progress has been made in product development." Additional growth outside the UK was being pursued.

## Singapore Airlines' challenge

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has thrown down the gauntlet to British and American carriers over their dominance of the highly profitable transatlantic air routes (Jon Ashworth writes).

UK and Singaporean officials are meeting in Singapore in the latest in a series of discussions over a new bilateral air treaty between the two countries. While British carriers enjoy rights beyond Singapore, allowing them to fly on to Australia, SIA enjoys no such advantages in the UK. It wants this imbalance in the existing air treaty corrected, allowing it to fly on from Heathrow to destinations in North America.

Talks have been clouded by delays in approving the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines — itself dependent on a revised UK-US "open skies" treaty. The UK says Singapore's request should be linked to the UK-US bilateral negotiations. Singapore says each agreement is debated on its own merit.

Although the company made profits of Fr1.8 billion last year, it remains uncompetitive in comparison with European rivals such as British Airways and Lufthansa. Having been kept afloat since 1993 by state subsidies of about Fr20 billion, the French airline is planning a Fr40 billion investment programme over the next five years.

The French Government wants to reduce the state's stake from 97 per cent to about 53 per cent this autumn.

## Merrill in \$400m settlement

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MERRILL LYNCH has settled a lawsuit over its role in America's biggest municipal bankruptcy with a \$400 million (£240 million) payment to Orange County in California.

The county accused the Wall Street house of selling it volatile derivatives that caused a loss of \$1.7 billion. Against its own guidelines, Merrill salesmen are said to have persuaded Robert Citron, Orange County's treasurer, to take risky bets

on interest rate movements that he did not understand.

The settlement is the fifth-largest in Wall Street history. The biggest were from Michael Milken and his former employers, Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Orange County was suing Merrill for a total of \$2 billion, a sum equivalent to its record profits last year, in a court case that was scheduled to begin in September. The county

also sued a number of smaller brokers, including Credit Suisse First Boston which agreed to pay \$52 million.

Mr Citron was helped by Merrill to borrow money for the short-term to buy options linked to long-term interest rates. The strategy was successful in the early 1990s as US interest rates dropped, but when rate changes were reversed in 1994 Mr Citron accumulated massive losses.

Orange County, one of the richest municipalities in America, was forced into bankruptcy.

In the aftermath of this and other derivatives scandals, banks tightened rules on how the complex financial instruments are sold. Wall Street and City salesmen now have to satisfy themselves that buyers understand the risks associated with an investment before a sale is concluded.

# Peak practice best for regulation

Felicity Banks wants to see new regime at the FSA focus on the individual characteristics of firms

The UK's innovative single financial services regulator, the FSA, is moving rapidly from the planning to the implementation stage, with staff from the Bank of England and the old SIB already moving to Canary Wharf. Consultation papers have been issued and private consultation carried out. However, this is still an anxious time for regulated firms with a fear that decisions will be made, or at least opinions formed, that do not take all their concerns into account.

One of the key rationales for the single regulator has been the anticipated cost savings. Certainly there should be savings, with the removal of duplication, economies of scale and the easing of communication between different regulatory functions. Authorised firms should be pleased to have to deal with only one regulator. However, great care will be needed to ensure that additional costs do not creep in.

Take conduct of business regulation, for example. Up to now, this has not been a key concern of the Bank of England. Unlike the PIA, it has not involved itself with customers at the smaller, consumer end

of the market. This is in accordance with reason. The investment and life assurance products typically dealt with by PIA members are long-term products the terms of which are often complex and obscure to the investor and where performance depends on the actions of the product provider after the investor's commitment. The investor needs assistance in product choice and monitoring and rationally should be willing to pay the regulatory costs of providing them. Bank deposits are, by comparison, short-term and transparent. Investors should be able to assess the extent of any grievance and move their deposits accordingly with relatively little trouble.

Already, however, there are political pressures emerging for the regulation of the conduct of business of retail banking. Will the single financial services regulator, with its conduct of business regulation specialists, resist applying their skills to the banks?

The concern of banks and other deposit-takers over a possible extension of regulation to their conduct of business is mirrored by the concern of financial advisers and other investment



Felicity Banks advocates a series of peaks and troughs

service providers over the possible extension to themselves of the prudential regulation that has been the main concern of bank and insurance regulators. Holders of bank and insurance policies need reassurance that when they come to require payment the rele-

vant institution will still be solvent. This is not generally the case with investment companies, whose clients will either have a call on an insurance company that provided the savings policy or on the underlying investments. Pensions mis-selling was a failure of

conduct of business regulation rather than showing a need for prudential regulation. The appropriate regulatory response would be to require professional indemnity insurance for investment firms.

This is not an easy option for the regulator, as it involves careful monitoring of the coverage and terms of the permitted policies, to ensure that they will be robust in all circumstances, but they provide a powerful incentive for investment firms not only to behave well but to demonstrate that they have done so to their insurers, to minimise premiums.

Much attention has been given to the twin peaks structure of financial services regulation, with separate organisations for retail and wholesale operators. The distinction is indeed important. As well as the distinction between prudential and conduct of business regulation there are other regulatory distinctions that should influence the actions of regulators.

What is needed is a regulatory regime focused on the characteristics of the institution concerned and no more. Not so much twin peaks as a series of peaks and troughs — definitely not an unscalable mountain range.

□ Felicity Banks is secretary to the financial services working party at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

# Glory needs more than meets the eye

CHRIS SWINSON, as he made plain to council members in his inaugural speech on becoming President of the English ICA this week, likes poetry. He keeps books of poetry on his desk, "even closer to me than accounting standards", as he pointed out. And he used two very different poems to illustrate his intentions as president. The first was *The Glory of the Garden* by Rudyard Kipling, and he cited the lines that point out that a wonderful garden, which is being used as a metaphor for the country, is not made by people sowing and saying how wonderful it is, but instead is made by hard, determined and often tedious work.

Swinson's point was a simple one. He was talking directly to the institute, its council and its staff. "Our members do not owe us a living," he said. "We exist for no reason other than to serve their long-term interests. Our position rests solely on our effectiveness in serving those interests." He was serving notice that the institute is now into the second

year of what appears to be a four-year plan. The first year under Chris Lainé, last year's President, was a softening-up exercise. Under his benign charm the Gerrard report on the workings of the institute has been turned into proposals. People will shortly discover what the consequences are going to be. This second year, under Swinson, is designed to give the strategy intellectual respectability and clout. Then the third year, under the resolute Dame Sheila Masters, of KPMG, will see the painful consequences of reorganising a body that has 438 staff and costs £43 million a year to run. The fourth year, under Graham Ward, of Price Waterhouse, the famed ex-heavyweight boxing champion of Oxford University, will see the mopping up of any details left over.

That seems to be the plan. And this week Swinson spelt it out. He started by talking of the institute's history. "It speaks of an institute made great by the achievements of its members," he said. "It speaks of a skilful proud elite, confident in its right to hold the position it gained in this country's economy and society." But the Kipling point is to the fore. "As one looks back," he said, "it may appear that the institute's development followed an unchanging pattern. But that is our mistake. Institutions continue to thrive only if they continually recreate themselves."

And that is the starting point. The institute has a new secretary-general, John Collier, "with," as Swinson put it, "the specific remit of managing a programme of change within the institute's secretariat." The next step is the recruitment of the heads of the three new directorates which will be the building blocks of the change. And for Swinson the key will be the Members' Directorate. This will undertake "extensive research into the views and expectations of our members" and then target people precisely. The aim, as ever, is "to become closer to and more valued by our members".

It is an ambitious project. But the people involved are determined and not noted during their careers for not sticking to their guns. The consequences will be immense. The qualification of chartered accountant will spawn new specialist qualifications. A survey published by *Financial Director* shows that the vast majority of top finance directors are accountants. Swinson wants to keep it that way. Moorgate Place, the Institute's headquarters, needs to be "sharpened up". Swinson's plan is to have Dame Sheila examining its financial structure while Graham Ward will reduce the number of its committees, improve its workings, and "re-shape" its council. All this will create the pain of organisational change. Swinson's exhortation that the institute can neither afford to resist or resist change may not convince the more embedded of those 438 staff. It is going to be a tough task for John Collier and the next three presidents.

And it is also going to be hard for the members, who usually object to change. Perhaps the poem that Swinson read to the congregation at the church service that traditionally follows the first council meeting of a new president would convince them. It was *Warty Bliggens the toad* from Don Marquis's *Archy and Mehitabel*. It tells of a toad who believes that the earth exists to grow toadstools for him to sit under. It was Swinson's way of pointing out yet again that the world does not owe accountants a living. As Marquis put it: "Similar absurdities have only too often lodged in the crinkles of the human cerebrum."

It is a mighty venture, the stirring of accountants from complacency, and Swinson and his team are brave to take it on.



ROBERT BRUCE

## Bugged by talk about Buggins

DAME Sheila Masters of KPMG, now only one rung down on the presidential ladder at the English ICA, is not noted for being shy and retiring. Even the most amiable of accountants would refer to her as fearsome. At the institute's annual meeting this week the self-styled "Ginger Group" was pushing for reforms and in particular for presidents to be elected by the whole membership rather than by the members of council alone.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

One disparaging speech made the point that "following a system of Buggins's turn, all you get is Buggins". Dame Sheila's thunderous look suggested that it was the first time that anyone in her hearing had ever called her Buggins.

## Wooded on a date

ALL anyone in the Big Five accounting firms talks about these days is when they are going to buy themselves a

large law firm. The view is that the big law firms are hopelessly backward in everything and are therefore fair game. So senior partners in the accounting firms are out and about wooing senior lawyers. During one such conversation recently the lawyer was boasting about how their recent link with an American firm was giving them an enviable global reach. The accountant said that his firm too had benefited from such a

move. "When did you do that?" asked the lawyer. "In 1924," came the reply.

## Name dropping

THE extraordinary contortions of diplomacy which led the two firms of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand to decide to call themselves "Pricewaterhouse-Coopers" are still providing great amusement at their competitors. The desperate and expensive measures involved to

keep the Coopers name stuck to that of PW rather than let it wither away, as usually happens in such mergers, have been wonderful to behold. But people are also marvelling at the words of Nick Moore and Jim Schiro, the merged firm's chairman and chief executive-elect. Given the problems that Coopers is facing in trying to keep various of its Latin American and Spanish firms in the fold the repeated references to the merged firm's "breakaway future" have only added to the mirth.

ROBERT BRUCE





## Iqbal carries on despite the IRA bombers

The Manchester city centre bomb blast in 1996 affected 4,000 businesses to a greater or lesser extent within a half-mile radius. Some were up and running again within days. Others are still not back as work continues in the Arndale Centre that took the brunt of the explosion.

Mohammed Ashram Iqbal's Kurry Home, which he had spent ten years building up in Back Turner Street, had its windows blown out, although the premises did not suffer structural damage. In his case, the surrounding chaos and police investigations meant he was unable to serve food for a week.

He says: "It took a long time for business to pick up but we are thriving again now. You cannot believe how relieved I was to find I was covered by insurance, even for a terrorist attack."

Nothing can entirely compensate for being out of business, even for a short time, since customers will switch to rival suppliers. However, it is possible to mitigate the disaster through specialised insurance that offers cover even for the effects of terrorism.

Another Manchester business, Berwick Electronics, has clawed its way back because, like the Kurry Home, it was insured against closure with NatWest Business Insurance Service at the time of the blast. Berwick specialises in lighting for homes and other shops. The Arndale explosion 600 yards away was felt at its Tib Street premises and another suspicious device was spotted in the area. It was not long before the owner, Chris Gabriellides, and his staff were evacuated by the police. It could have been worse. The shop suffered no damage.

Mr Gabriellides says: "Apparently the fact that I kept my door open at all times stopped the windows from imploding on impact. If that had happened my insurance claim would have been far larger and, more worryingly, we could have been dealing with injuries."

The bomb went off at lunchtime on a Saturday, wiping out the best trading period of the week in the afternoon. He says he was unable to get to his shop for three days. Monday's trading was lost because the area around Tib Street was cordoned off while the painstaking hunt for evidence of the terrorists continued.

He says: "This shop has been here for 30 years and, being well established, it has a lot of regular customers, thank goodness. It was weeks and months before trade started to pick up. People would not come into town if they did not have to. Even our Saturday trade is nothing compared with what it used to be."

"The Arndale Centre is still not fully open. I reckon only about 60 per cent of the shops are back in business and they are still repairing a lot of them."

Mr Gabriellides finds he can now manage with just one employee. Before the bombing he used to employ part-time staff on Saturdays.

Ron Kalifa, head of NatWest Business Insurance Service, says: "Our research shows that many small businesses are either not insured or are underinsured. One of the most common types of cover overlooked is insurance for the financial dent arising from the interruption of a business, either through a natural disaster, an accident, an act of terrorism or some similar event."

"Many people do not even know that this kind of cover is available, yet time and time again it is an area where people get caught out. They forget completely about how they are going to live in the days, weeks or months between disaster striking and a business being able to return to normal."

RODNEY HOBSON

## Keep your guard up

Peace hopes are high in Northern Ireland, two men have been arrested in the Mardi Gra case... now is the time that companies and their security officers all over Britain will be tempted to lower their guard.

Business continuity experts have long argued that high-profile disruptions are only a small part of the story and that fires, floods and theft are far more widespread and can be equally devastating for individual companies.

Neal Courtney, sales and marketing at Imbach RAG, a leading disaster management company, says: "To be honest, there is the potential for those who have been pushing hard for their businesses to set up continuity plans to slow down the pace. However, in large companies the momentum is too strong to stop now."

"The smaller the company, the more likely it is that planning for disasters will slip down the board's agenda. It did after the first IRA ceasefire. There is also a greater recognition that planning is not just for the blasts and

### Rodney Hobson reports on the people who can sustain your company if disaster strikes

that companies need a practical plan in place for any disaster."

Chris Bowes, associate director of TPS, a consultancy, says: "Some people have learnt lessons and they realise that there could be different threats, not just terrorism. There could be a major water burst or a vehicle crashing into the building." He also points out that this is one area where the Government has long set a good example to industry and commerce.

Mr Courtney says that an important factor in pushing businesses in general towards managing risk has been the attitude of insurers and insurance brokers. He believes that the restructuring in the industry such as the mergers of Royal and Sun Alliance, Commercial Union and General Accident and Eagle Star and Zurich, is creating giant companies whose expertise includes business continuity. He says: "The brokers also have a role in this. They have had to be a bit cleverer in adding value to insurance policies."

In larger businesses the risk manager aims to prevent losses or to recover compensation from insurers while the facilities manager must know what assets are needed to continue trading.

Mr Courtney says the three stages in keeping a business going are strategy, planning and implementation. Strategy involves deciding what will need to be recovered on a disaster, how quickly and with what resources. The facilities manager should know what will happen to the business if certain critical functions are lost and what back-up resources and emergency procedures are in place. Particularly critical is the main computer facility, which usually needs to be restored within 48 hours at the most.

Mr Courtney says: "Examining the role of suppliers is critical in the recovery plan." The planning stage involves agreeing a detailed strategy of what to do, when, where, how and by whom. "I believe the plan should be the company's worst kept secret. Implementation should begin with training staff and raising awareness for all personnel in controlling risks." The strategy should be tested, either by "walking through" the procedures or by staging a mock emergency.



## What are your company's chances of recovering from a major disaster...

# 2:1?

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## Specialists who ride to the rescue

Going into the office on Good Friday was something employees at Ross Systems, a computer software company in Northampton, hadn't banked on. But like many people across central England, they were woken with news of flooding, and of water pouring into their offices. Amanda Loose writes.

Fortunately the company had organised a business and disaster recovery plan; otherwise, according to Cheryl Irwin, Ross Systems' UK controller, it would have been a disaster. The area worst affected was used for training and demonstrations to customers. The company had to hire temporary training areas while the insurance company assessed damage.

Despite the floods, Ross Systems was up and running again by the following Tuesday, largely thanks to the business and disaster recovery plan it decided to implement last year, with the help of a specialist company, Granada Business Continuity.

Miss Irwin says: "We put the disaster recovery plan into action on Good Friday. First, our personnel officer contacted employees, then we assessed the damage and prioritised the work needing to be done, and then we called in Granada."

"We run our computer support network from here, so it was a priority to get it up and running. Granada came in first thing on Tuesday and took the system to its Business Recovery Centre in Birmingham, and it was working again after lunch. It would have been a disaster if we had not had the plan in place."

Mike Bucklin, the financial director at Howard Salvage company, agrees. Last May, fire swept through the wooden buildings on the company's site at Felixstowe, destroying the computer system and financial records.

"You always think that it will happen to someone else. There was nothing left at all," says Mr Bucklin. "Granada came from Birmingham with the computer hardware, and our software supplier came with the software, and our system and data was restored."

Some companies leave nothing to chance and organise dry runs of their recovery plans. One, reports Granada, locked

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## A company rescue the fire

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# A company rescued from the fire skip

Who are you going to call when your computers go up in smoke? Stephen Hoare meets the disaster busters

When fire devastated the offices of a Birmingham accountancy firm three years ago, the partners thought their entire business had gone up in smoke. Computer terminals had melted in the heat, and with them the details of their entire client base.

Doug Blanks, boss of Staffordshire-based disaster recovery firm Ark and General, surveyed the ruins and questioned firemen at the scene. It emerged that the heart of the firm's IT system, the server, had been consumed by fire, then drowned by firefighters' hoses. After that it had been thrown out of a three-storey window along with other debris and piled in a skip awaiting disposal.

Mr Blanks located the skip, ordered his men to start digging and unearthed the remains of the server. Back at Ark and General's workshops the mangled remains were dissected and the vital hard disk located.

Mr Blanks says: "We transferred it to another computer and managed to download 2,500 client files and only lost six. It is incredible how robust the protective metal casing can be."

The accountants, who did not back up their computer data, had a lucky escape — if Ark and General had not been so quick off the mark, then hydrochloric acid created by the mixture of water and chlorides from burning plastic would have eaten its way through the outer casing of the disk and destroyed it.

Natural and man-made disasters such as fire, floods, gales, power cuts and computer failure are the driving force behind the business continuity market. The market began in a slow way as firms realised

that they were becoming dependent on computers and wanted some guarantees that their mainframes would be repaired quickly and that information stored could be backed up. It gathered momentum after the IRA bombing campaigns in mainland Britain demonstrated how easy it was to disrupt business.

The spread of global communications makes companies increasingly interdependent but increasingly vulnerable to systems failure. It is a niche market, attracting companies such as salvage company Ark and General and specialist IT consultants such as IBM, Safeynet, Granada, Guardian Recovery and Adam Associates.

Business analysts report that the market is growing at between 20 and 30 per cent every year. The Business Continuity Institute (BCI), set up four years ago, caters for the needs of a young profession that is part IT, part risk management.

BCI's chief executive John Sharp says: "Businesses such as banking, insurance and call centres are very IT-dependent. Then you have utilities, local authorities and hospitals which need to be kept running. Disaster recovery is not about making a one-off plan then putting it away in a drawer for a rainy day."

Nowhere is this more critical than in the City of London. Safeynet runs four dealing rooms in the City, each fully equipped with state-of-the-art IT and fibre-optic communications, but they are empty. Michael Burke, the marketing manager, says: "Any one of these rooms could go live at a moment's notice because we have real-time mirroring of computer data. Everything the client needs is backed up in one of our servers so that their

staff could just come in and sit at our machines and be ready to do business. With phones on divert this is a seamless operation."

Insurance packages cost from around £2,000, but Safeynet charges up to £400,000 to mirror a trading room in the city.

But being able to switch operations hides vulnerability from a business rival and assures customers that everything is normal.

Mr Sharp believes this is money well spent. "The evidence is that something like 80 per cent of firms that suffer a major disaster and do not have a contingency plan go out of business the following year. And that plan must include not just IT but a whole host of related issues including positive PR to support your public image."

Russell Flowers, the UK sales director at Granada, says: "If your computer goes down for any length of time and you start taking orders manually you start hitting problems like how do you invoice, how do you collect money owed, how do you order new stock? It's a backlog that eventually kills you."

But the cost of disaster recovery does not have to run to the complete mirroring of your operation off-site. Business continuity specialists can tailor the plans and their cost to the risk involved. They will study clients' IT configuration so that they can replace parts or the whole of that system. This is where consultancy helps.

Mr Flowers says: "A one-off consultancy tends to be the front end of a long-term relationship. We can offer services to match the client's pocket from a mobile service delivering new computer equipment to your specification within hours. Or you can bring your computer back-up tapes and run them through one of our empty machines if your system goes down, or you can set up office in one of our four regional business recovery centres."

The BCI estimates that only about 60 per cent of major companies have contingency plans and as few as 25 per cent keep these updated. Most small businesses have barely thought about the consequences. Ark and General has developed a software program costing less than £100. *The Power to Face Disaster*, to help businesses to plan effectively with a checklist.

The key to effective business contingency planning is that the companies themselves should take ownership of the plan — not simply leave it to a boffin. Mr Blanks says: "If you have been a risk manager for ten years then it's quite easy to plan. But most people who have been delegated to do the job haven't a clue."



A fire at Coutant Lambda, a power supply organisation in Ilfracombe, Devon, destroyed nine offices in 12 minutes. The company was functioning the following day thanks to Granada Business Continuity which supplied equipped mobile offices

# How to avoid total disaster

David Honour on continuity planning and insurance

Insurance and continuity planning both stem from an anticipation of risk — commercial, natural or even terrorist — that a business faces. They are both designed to ensure business survival.

The first step in the process is to carry out a business impact analysis (BIA), the process of assessing the risks faced by each element of a business. These are then appraised for the severity of possible impact.

Once a risk has been classified, a decision can then be made whether to accept or to address it. Where the cost of addressing a risk is higher than the possible benefit obtained, a decision will be made to accept the risk.

What will emerge from the BIA is a listing of risks which are critical to the continuing operation of the organisation and which need acting upon. In small businesses, a BIA will often be made intuitively. Larger organisations will need a methodical procedure, with software and consultative support. The BIA will highlight areas needing cover.

Material damage insurance provision will fund the replacement of property, while loss of profits or increased cost of working cover will reimburse the financial losses incurred due to a period of business interruption, within a timescale.

The sum insured and the period of indemnity are the crucial factors in determining the cost of the policy. It is vital that both these factors are considered — a disaster can result in increased costs well beyond the typical one year period of indemnity.

Insurance, although essential, is limited. The direct costs of a disaster are covered, but other indirect, or unmeasurable, costs will be either only partially covered or not at all. These include reduced share value, lawsuits arising from the inability to meet contractual arrangements, the inability to respond to market opportunities, loss of supplier and customer confidence and reduction in staff morale and productivity.

These costs can quickly multiply. Consider, for example, the effect of an incident caus-

ing minimal direct cost but having a negative impact upon a company's image. There is a reduction in share value and the loss of some existing customers — and new business is harder to win. The latter two result in a reduction in product prices and increased marketing spending to redress the situation. Costs and losses escalate, none covered by insurance.

Business continuity plans deal with mitigating all the costs of a disaster, measurable and unmeasurable.

Continuity managers take the critical risks perceived in the BIA and identify measures which can be taken to reduce the company's exposure to each risk.

A plan is also made to minimise the impact of the risk should it become reality. Continuity management aims to preserve a company's operations in any situation, ensuring that customer service is maintained and the corporate image is retained.

In the example above, effective continuity management would have prevented the situation deteriorating by the immediate implementation of a crisis plan, keeping employees, customers, suppliers, stockholders and the media informed in a positive manner.

Continuity management can also lower insurance premiums by reducing the anticipated loss which would occur in the event of a disaster, enabling the insured amount to be reduced.

Insurance and business continuity are essential in ensuring that a company emerges relatively unscathed from a disaster. Both are costly and both require detailed analysis of an organisation if they are to be effective. At present, however, business continuity is the poor relation. Many organisations still only play lip-service to it.

This needs to change if companies want to face the future with certainty.

Businesses which operate without a continuity plan walk the tightrope of business survival.

David Honour is editor of Business Continuity magazine.

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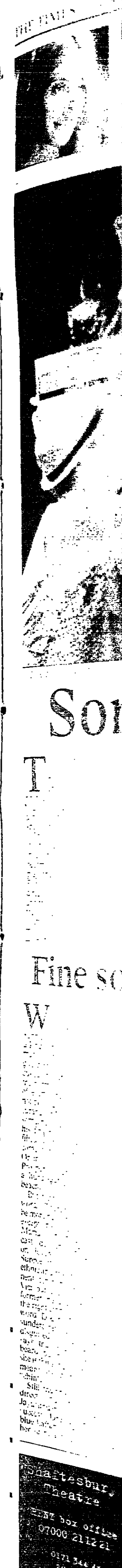
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VIDEOS  
Nastassja Kinski's One Night Stand  
PAGE 38

# THE TIMES ARTS

MOVIES  
Gere takes on China — again  
PAGE 39



Joie de Viv: Neil McCaul as Bruce Forsyth presents the pools-winner's cheque to Sophie-Louise Dann as young Viv Nicholson and Nigel Richards as her husband, Keith

## Song of the squanderer

This exuberant musical celebrates a life that appears to have been enjoyed, later endured, with the same uninhibited openness evident in Viv Nicholson's famous declaration, after a pool's win of £152,319: "I want to spend and spend and spend!"

The 1961 fortune, equivalent today to about £3 million, was squandered in double-quick time, but her story became a book, and then a television play, and now, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, a musical. Justin Greene directs it, Steve Brown composed it and the pair of them collaborated on the book and lyrics.

THEATRE  
Spend, Spend, Spend  
Leeds

regularly amusing — "avocado" with "Brigitte Bardot" — or ingeniously colloquial: "Look at them, willya! Getting drunker and sillier" completed a line or two later with "familiar".

This does not distract attention much, but it does so a little. Playing colliers, spongers, sales people and symbols of wealth dressed in sparkling gold lamé, the chorus are energetic together and efficient in their cameo roles.

## Fine soloists not in harmony

Why on earth does Leo Wringer's Orsino bother to begin Tim Supple's *Twelfth Night* by asking those who regard music as the food of love to give him excess of it? In his dukedom harmonic excess is the norm and music the food of everything.



Cameron (Olivia), Jayasundera (Viola), Wringer (Orsino) and Ian Taylor (Fabian)

Twelfth Night  
Young Vic

Beich is not the usual sub-Falstaffian reveller but a seedy alcoholic who, with his foul tweed jacket and even more foul corduroys, might be an Evelyn Waugh prep-school-master or, at best, a Bloomsbury hanger-on.

## Almost halfway to a good show

STEPHEN OLIVER was surely the most prolific opera composer of recent times — he wrote nearly 50 — and one redeeming aspect of his untimely death in 1992 was the establishment of a biennial prize for the setting by a young composer of an original libretto to be a leading writer.

OPERA  
The Bridge Travellers  
Coventry Theatre

me shaking my head in despair. But the final alienating stroke was the crass amplification, supposed to add tension but rather making the piece unbearably oppressive.

## Room for one more on top

IN SPITE of early communist experiments into conductorless symphonic ensembles, modern orchestras know that without a baton-wielder they cannot make real music. Proof of the impact a conductor can have came in the final of the fifth Donatella Flick Conducting Competition: the London Symphony Orchestra sounded like a markedly different instrument under each of the three finalists.

CONCERTS  
Flick Competition  
Barbican

a spring into its rhythms and still capturing its noble grandeur. Mann capped this with a glorious performance of Elgar's *In the South* in which he really engaged with the orchestra. He showed feeling for Elgarian ebb and flow and balanced the vigorous episodes and a becalmed opening.

## Baroque on a roll

NOW IN the capable hands of Kate Bolton, the Luffhansa Festival of Baroque Music enters its fourteenth year with an excellent programme, highlighting the French Baroque, astutely hitting on an area that has not exactly been overexposed and drawing on the wealth of experience and expertise accumulated in recent years by period performers in this rich and rewarding repertoire.

English Concert  
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Helen Groves and Ruth Gomme, and above all by the spirited playing of the English Concert.

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LISTINGS Brass band drama

LONDON BRASS OFF: Deborah Page's Sheffield Crucible production of the lost piece...

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Merril Hargre

NORWICH Philip Prowse's spectacular and lavishly new production for Opera North...



Susannah Glanville as the martyr in Norwich

ARTS

When wedlock has a spare key

NEW ON VIDEO

ONE NIGHT STAND Entertainment, 18, 1997 AFTER studying alcoholism in Leaving Las Vegas...

CAT PEOPLE

4 Front, PG, 1993 YOU'LL shiver... you'll shake... you'll shudder and shiver...

CLOSE-UP

BFI Video, U, 1989 A TYPICALLY compassionate and brain-teasing piece from Iran's most celebrated director...

SAINT-EX

For World Cinema, PG, 1995 A WORK of imagination, the opening titles read: "No extracts of writings, and all words spoken by actors are fictional..."



A woman betrayed: Ming-Na Wen finds her marriage under threat in Mike Figgis's One Night Stand

often not helpful. Bruno Ganz is pretty dull as the aviator and author of The Little Prince...

THE WINTER GUEST Film Four, 15, 1997 ALAN RICKMAN'S theatrical experience emerges loud and clear in his directorial debut...

following the fortunes of four sets of characters, criss-crossing each other and musing deep thoughts in a bleak Scottish coastal town...

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Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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OPERA

John Higgins BEETHOVEN Fidelio Benackova/Rolle Johnson/ Kapellmann/Vogel/Scottish Chamber Orchestra

VOCAL

Hilary Finch BAROQUE Barry Millington RAMEAU Acante et Cephe: Les Fêtes d'Hébé

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

Afterglow (15) Two interlocked couples search for happiness. Outly and moving romantic comedy...

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■ FILM

Cannes winner arrives

# No takers for Gere's cultural revelations

**NEW MOVIES:** In *Red Corner*, an American lawyer gets lost in China's legal system. **Geoff Brown** does the same

This coming Sunday has been designated National Cinema Day. Every cinema will be selling tickets at half price, as well as the regular programming, sneak previews of upcoming releases are promised. Last year 1.4 million people trooped through the doors. This year the figure may well be higher. The theme of this year's event, we are told, is "a celebration of the success of British cinema and a toast to its continued development". So what British film is released this week? Just an unnecessary thriller called *Dad Savage*, featuring Patrick Stewart as a tulip farmer with a secret line in illicit goods.

Hollywood, at least, can always provide big product, although *Red Corner* is scarcely the plum of the year: MGM's accountants, apparently, have already written the film off as a loss.

An uninviting title does not help. And maybe Richard Gere's naked body is not the attraction it once was. Not that he strips for kicks. His character, a lawyer for an entertainment conglomerate competing for a satellite TV deal with China, is found in Beijing one morning with blood on his clothes and an attractive girl, his date for the night, dead on the floor. So Gere is arrested, stripped and hosed down by the police. This allows director Jon Avnet to give us a close-up of bloody water disappearing down the floor's drain hole: film cliché No 239.

Gere is then thrust into the coils of a legal system not known for its leniency. His defence attorney is a court appointee; headphones that give translations of talk keep breaking down; and the American Embassy seems useless.

At first his predicament is moderately engaging. Against a babble of tongues, Gere panics and protests his innocence convincingly, and keeps his preening to a minimum. You can also have fun trying to guess how the production team conjured up the look of Beijing from Culver City sound stages and a seven-acre set a few minutes from Los Angeles airport. But the more

**Red Corner**  
Plaza, 15, 122 mins  
Richard Gere gets into difficulties in China

**The Taste of Cherry**  
Renoir, PG, 98 mins  
Lyrical marvel from Iran

**The Wedding Singer**  
Odeon West End, 12, 97 mins  
Breezy romantic comedy

**Nowhere**  
Metro, 18, 85 mins  
Lurid day in the life of LA teenagers

**Hurricane Streets**  
Virgin Haymarket, 15, 88 mins  
Those mean streets again

**The Replacement Killers**  
Virgin Trocadero, 18, 87 mins  
Dull American copy of Hong Kong fare

the plot hinges on the case's details, the more the film's motor stalls. He may have been framed, but how much sympathy would you give a man whose mission in life is to smear shows like *Baywatch* all over China? Incidentally plays a part too: would a foreign prisoner facing death for murder be granted a day of freedom to trot round Beijing with his attorney?

Be thankful, though, for this attorney, for the actress concerned, Chinese emigre Bai Ling, is one of the film's attractions. Her dialogue gives her little help in building a character, but she builds one nonetheless as she sticks to her guns, uncovers the cover-up, and wins Gere's respect and heart. Behind the corn in Robert King's script you can sometimes detect serious thoughts about cultural co-existence and the importance of family. But the film finds no sensible way to bring them to the front and make them live for audiences.

If Gere in China fails to

thrill, how about a beautiful and engrossing film from Iran, *The Taste of Cherry*, shared winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes last year? For best results, you must rid yourself of Hollywood preconceptions. Time is suspended. Little, on the surface, happens; and what action there is, such as the hero's journeys by car through the parched landscape around Tehran, is repeated and repeated.

Much of the film, shot with non-professional actors, has the magic simplicity of a fable, although it ends with a disruptive sequence that lifts the veil of artifice to show camera crew at work. The director, of course, is Abbas Kiarostami, whose films *Through the Olive Trees* and *Close-Up* reached Britain last year. No other film-maker pares down his work with such poetic and humane effect.

So who is the hero? Why the journey? And where are these cherries? The reason the man drives his car up and down, seeking assistance, is only gradually revealed. He plans to commit suicide in a hillside pit already prepared and requires someone to cover his dead body with rocks. A cement worker says no. A theology student says no. A taxidermist says yes, but seeks to dissuade him with a litany of what he would miss: the sun and moon, the natural world, the taste of cherries.

The film's topic may sound oppressive, and Kiarostami's lead player, Homayoon Irshadi, is scarcely a bundle of fun. The final scene, too, will annoy many, for it scotches the desire for a tidy resolution, and throws the moral issue of suicide right back in our laps.

But there is something very moving about the man's persistent pleadings and the resilience of the simple people he meets. So many films treat life cavalierly and trample on feelings. This is different: by the very fact of contemplating death, Kiarostami imbues ordinary events with beauty and dignity. Birds wheel in the sky; a passing plane leaves a vapour trail; the road winds through the brown earth. Everything is precious, this



No way to treat an officer and a gentleman: hapless hero Richard Gere experiences some rough Chinese justice in a scene from *Red Corner*

film included, especially when our multiplexes glut themselves on mainstream fodder and good foreign product languishes unseen.

If you want to laugh on National Cinema Day, you could do worse than try the breezy romantic comedy *The Wedding Singer*. The lead male, Adam Sandler, may not bode well. But he seems to have been given a humanity transplant since his grating role in *Happy Gilmore*. The penul时间 has gone; and Tim Herlihy's script, while far from original, draws out the characters sufficiently to blanket the mechanical formula.

You know the routine: two people are obviously meant for each other, but seem oblivious until it is almost too late. Sandler entertains at weddings and bar mitzvahs; his perfect match is a charming waitress (an unusually demure Drew Barrymore). The period is the mid-1980s: this, too, adds to the fun as the characters are afflicted with loopy pop music, hideous quilts, turquoise cummerbunds, even the demon Rubik's cube. Director Frank Coraci keeps the laughs coming.

Less conventional American fare can be found in *Nowhere*, the wildest, most lavish film yet from Gregg Araki, devoted chronicler of the "doom generation" of LA teenagers. Language is colourful; the visuals are luridly hyperactive. The plot material combines the attributes of TV soap operas, teen movies and sci-fi lunacy: you never know if you're going to get an anorexic vomiting cake, death by cans of Campbell's soup or visitations by B-movie monsters. Araki's cheek and the cast's enthusiasm means there is never any time to get downright bored, although the film's insistence on its own shallowness leads it just where the title suggests.

**H**urricane Streets, another American independent film, whips us across the continent to Manhattan's East Village, where kids hang out and thieve, and dream of starting afresh in New Mexico. Morgan J. Freeman's film won prizes at last year's Sundance Film Festival. It is certainly made with passion, although the material remains over-familiar. Brendan Sexton III, the bully boy from *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, brightens the film's prospects with his lively portrayal of the 15-year-old hero, inching towards adult responsibilities.

**The Replacement Killers** suffers even more from that déjà vu feeling. A hitman becomes a target himself; bullets get sprayed over the screen; debris dances in slow-motion. Usually this sort of fare is made in Hong Kong, with the soulful action star Chow Yun-Fat. Now Chow has gone to America, to repeat the formula for commercials director Antoine Fuqua. Neither need have bothered, although Mira Sorvino usefully tests a new performance style as a tough cookie. It suits her.

## 'A real stinker, a huge bore'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**RED CORNER**  
Emma Rolph, 19: Richard Gere isn't bad but the movie is. A real stinker.  
**THE WEDDING SINGER**  
Emma: Pure bliss. One of the most satisfying cinema experiences ever.  
Leslie: To appreciate this movie fully you need to remember the 1980s.

**ALISON JULIARD, 20:** A film that shows the Chinese in such a bad way you'll never order a take-away again.

**CARL:** The ultimate in feel-good movies. I loved every last second of it.  
Alison: Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore are first-rate.

**HURRICANE STREETS**  
Emma: An extremely cool movie.  
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Klemperer's Diaries

The first Elizabeth: Peter Ackroyd enjoys the latest look at the mistress of masque and intrigue who restored her country to glory



Splendour: Elizabeth I at the time of her Coronation in 1558

Upon the stage of the world she became the most accomplished player: early chroniclers considered her acting as in some way un-feminine, but the more enlightened biographers of the present century extol her subtlety as well as her magnificence. Hers had been a hard training — Anne Boleyn, her mother, beheaded and her sister, "Bloody" Mary, woefully wrong-headed. Even in her early years Elizabeth was suspected of conspiracy and at the age of 21 was placed in the Tower where, in Alison Weir's words, she expected "daily to be executed".

It is no surprise, then, that when she ascended the throne four years later she was already a mistress of "deception, dissimulation, prevarication and circumvention". Such gifts were necessary, too, for the administration of a country burdened by debt, embarrassed in war with the loss of Calais, and close to famine.

Yet immediately after her Coronation the central question became that of marriage. It was considered inevitable that she should take a husband; instead she remained the Virgin Queen. Endless speculation has arisen about the matter, but it seems likely that she feared childbirth as much as she distrusted giving birth to a male child who might usurp her place, and she used the cold heat of her virginity as an instrument of policy.

The other great matter before

**Virtues and vices of the Virgin Queen**

ELIZABETH THE QUEEN

By Alison Weir

Jonathan Cape, £18.99  
ISBN 0 224 04414 1

her was that of religion. She was herself a scholar but she had no taste for theological niceties, which she described in her own marvellously rhetorical style as "ropes of sand or sea slime leading to the Moon". As Alison Weir puts it in this plainly written but often eloquent biography, she preferred the broader avenue of "caution, compromise and moderation".

There may be another reason for such caution, since she seemed constitutionally incapable of making up her mind on any subject. That may have been good for the constitution in another sense, however: by delaying definite acts of policy, she made fewer enemies. So she became a mistress of intrigue, who used her sex to great advantage.

It is interesting and significant that Alison Weir should join a tradition of female biographers of the Queen. Agnes Strickland and Edith Sitwell among them, who are able to divine the recesses of her will. As a woman in a court of men she would, in Weir's own words, "give a little, appear to be promising much, and then with-

draw... leaving all concerned perplexed and frustrated". So she learnt all the arts of the masque and theatre. She wore "ever more flamboyant and fantastic" gowns, insisting that her ladies in waiting wore plain black or white in order to provide a contrast to her own magnificence; she made elaborate speeches as if sitting upon a throne of gold in the Globe theatre; she knew how to lie in a thousand graceful forms.

But there was no other way in which she could have dominated her simmering and brawling court, filled with rumour and faction: the plural noun is a "threat" of courtiers and that is exactly what they represented for each other if not for the Queen herself. Alison Weir emphasises the pre-eminent authority of Elizabeth, believed to be sanctified by God, as well as her intuitive

mastery of events. The Virgin Queen seems to have replaced the Virgin Mary in public affection, too, although Weir points out that those of the dissenting faith "feared that Elizabeth was being set up as an object of idolatry". That, of course, was the plan. That is why she encrusted herself in gold and jewels, and caked her face with layer upon layer of white cosmetic so that she might seem ageless.

Almost to the end of her life, however, she flirted with various proposals of marriage. Her divergences and contradictions proved a heavy burden for her courtiers, but they also caused difficulties for her biographers, who are obliged either to follow each twist and turn in detail or to provide some grand summation. Alison Weir prefers the former course, which means that her narrative is sometimes at the mercy of events. There is the occasional repetition, as a result, but her story is still of absorbing interest.

The life of Mary Queen of Scots, for example, is briefly but ably handled in episodes mercifully

short of the romance which has accompanied that unhappy Sovereign through history. Alison Weir shows her for what she was — a schemer and a hypocrite. The last days of Elizabeth are also well told. She was ill and tired, her own court resive under "an old woman's government". She had killed Essex, her erstwhile favourite, for his attempt at treason. "To be a king and wear a crown," she told Parliament, "is more glorious to them that see it than it is a pleasure to them that bear it." She became severely depressed and forgetful, believing that "all the fabric of my reign, little by little, is beginning to fall". For days she said nothing but sat, eyes downcast, with a finger to her lips like some figure out of Beaham.

A few days before her death she asked her courtier to raise her to her feet and then remained standing for the next 15 hours. It is an astonishing incident — suggesting the strength of her will as well as her need to remain, in symbolic terms, "at the helm" of her nation. But she died speechless, tracing a crown in the air with her finger to suggest the accession of James I.

Alison Weir quotes the words of the antiquarian, William Camden, that "no oblivion shall ever bury the glory of her name". We may add this informative and entertaining biography to that eternal record.

**The voice of Dresden's conscience**

Daniel Johnson on a pitiless view of Nazi Germany

Two outstanding diarists have just emerged from the shadows of Hitler's Germany: the minister and the mandarin, Joseph Goebbels and Victor Klemperer. They form a perfect contrast: the mendacity, bombast and nihilism of Goebbels versus the self-awareness and humanity of Klemperer. At the time, there was no comparison between the power of the Nazi propagandist and the powerlessness of the Jewish professor. Yet both diaries were crafted with literary panache, and with posterity in mind. Goebbels sees the world through Medusa's lethal eyes, while Klemperer holds up the bloody head of the Gorgon for our examination.

Yet there is no doubt that Goebbels was more typical of the mentality of the Third Reich. When Klemperer's diaries resurfaced after 1989 and the collapse of East German censorship, his testimony to the complexity of individual attitudes under Hitler was hailed as proof that many, if not most, "ordinary Germans" had retained a core of decency. He became a posthumous witness against the charge levelled by the American scholar Daniel Goldhagen that the majority wanted to be rid of the Jews.

But Klemperer did not ask to be used in this way, and would not have approved. Time and time again he notes — more in sorrow than in anger — the indifference of "Aryan" Germans to the Jews' fate (except for his long-suffering wife Eva). With horrified

fascination, he watches Hitler's popularity grow, until even the handful of anti-Nazis among his Gentile acquaintances begin to admire the Führer. Klemperer is bitterly aware of how untypical of the academic profession his own inner resistance was. In one passage in the German original, which I have failed to find in this abridged translation, he imagines a postwar trial of the Nazis, and declares that he would be lenient even with the party leadership; but he would like to see his colleagues, the German professors, swinging from the

lampposts as a warning against *trahison des clercs*. Klemperer is scarcely less critical of himself. There is a chilling description of the ceremony in November 1934 in which he swears his oath of loyalty to the Führer, chanting the words and believing "Sieg Heil!". He consoles himself with the old Jesuitical principle of *reservatio mentalis*, but later, after his dismissal, he regrets the whole degrading business. So much for the "inner emigration" with which many Germans tried to dignify their submission.

His tender conscience has earned Klemperer opprobrium from *The Daily Telegraph* music critic Norman Lebrecht, in a review of this volume for *The Spectator* last week. Lebrecht accuses the diarist of "egregious blots of Jewish self-hatred", but cites only one passage, in which he compares the conductor Furtwängler to his own cousin Otto Klemperer: the former "carries one away", the latter does not. But Lebrecht overlooks the fact that this anti-Semitic comparison is attributed to Klemperer's friend, Professor Johannes Kühn, and is cited as one of many examples of how "the terminology of National Socialism also infects its opponents". Far from being a Jewish anti-Semite himself, Klemperer was acutely sensitive to such masochistic traits in others.

On one level, Klemperer's diary is a rich tapestry of his time: a kind of soap opera set to the music of *Götterdämmerung*. That is what makes it by far the most readable document of Nazi Germany. He had a unique ear for the Nazis' semantic perversions, which over 12 years irreversibly transformed German from the language of Thomas Mann into that of *Vorsprung durch Technik*. The most notable book by Klemperer to appear during his lifetime was *LTI*, short for *Lingua Terribilis Imperii*, the language of the Third Reich. These diaries were, essentially, notes for that project.

Klemperer and his wife had no children; his books on French cultural history were the substitute. He preserved the manuscripts even through

the firebombing of Dresden in 1945. The intellectual life took precedence, but the Klemperers tried to lead a normal middle-class life. They bought a car and learnt to drive, until Jews lost their driving licences. They bought the house of their dreams in Dölzsch, only to be drummed out of town by their neighbours. Even in the cramped quarters of the Jews' House, they preserve a vestigial domestic dignity.

This volume ends as the Final Solution begins. Klemperer himself was saved only by his marriage to Eva: the Nazi attempt to deport the Jewish husbands of mixed marriages to the camps failed, thanks to a rare protest on the streets of Berlin in 1943. So the diarist slipped through the net. Present-day Germans may read him as a witness for their own defence: I see his evidence as part of the indictment.



Magnificent before the bombing in 1945: an early photograph of the city's Old Bridge and the architectural splendour of Dresden, 1875

the firebombing of Dresden in 1945. The intellectual life took precedence, but the Klemperers tried to lead a normal middle-class life. They bought a car and learnt to drive, until Jews lost their driving licences. They bought the house of their dreams in Dölzsch, only to be drummed out of town by their neighbours. Even in the cramped quarters of the Jews' House, they preserve a vestigial domestic dignity.

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**Thirst for the blood of biography**

THERE is a boy in Benjamin's *Crossing* who cannot see the point of novels. "It simply made no sense," he thought, "to read a book that declared itself untrue from the outset. Why make up stories when the world supplied each day more spectacular ones than anyone could hope to invent?" The boy, like most of the figures in this book of fiction begs a question more difficult than his own: why tell true stories as if you had made them up?

Both Parini's and Jim Shepard's books are biographical novels, imaginative (but not wholly imagined) accounts of real lives, with fiction adding flesh to bare factual bones. Both their subjects — the German cinema pioneer F.W. Murnau, director of the definitive early vampire film, *Nosferatu*; and the German-Jewish literary critic and thinker Walter Benjamin, who killed himself at the Spanish border in 1940 while trying to escape the Nazis — could be said to invite unconventional treatment: enigmatic minor icons of modern culture, they exercise a fascination that goes beyond what they achieved.

Shepard's is the more beautiful fiction, an atmospheric picture of an era as well as a sensitive evocation of a man. Delicately, and with great economy, it plots the transformation of Friedrich Wilhelm Plümpe, a bourgeois adolescent who was never quite like other boys, into the more mysterious Murnau, an obsessive cinematic genius who was not quite like anyone at all. Gaunt and imposing, Murnau emerges as a lonely, driven figure. What drives him, in Shepard's affecting,

persuasive account, is love and loss and doubt.

No happier, and now no less influential, Walter Benjamin was driven by something messier and more elusive. There is more biography in Parini's fiction than in Shepard's — not surprisingly, perhaps: as well as being a novelist, Parini is a successful biographer (of John Steinbeck), and the author of an earlier life-and-letters hybrid which approached the last days of Tolstoy through diaries kept by those around him.

In Benjamin's *Crossing*, the

was a labyrinth that he found himself drawing.

One of Benjamin's ambitions was to write a book consisting entirely of quotations and in Parini's account he speaks most clearly through the voices of others. In contrast, the narrative sections which present him more directly are less successful, especially when they try to show the thinker at work and end up offering clumsy, undated summaries of his ideas.

But the ideas, to Benjamin were what mattered. If Parini can communicate like of their substance, he at least shows vividly how much they meant to their author. Benjamin, barely able to walk down the street without gasping for breath, marches off to an internment camp with a suitcase in one hand and a heavy briefcase in the other, determined not to be parted from the manuscript of his never-to-be-completed study of 19th-century Paris. Released from the camp, fleeing towards Lourdes, he brings the briefcase with him. He hangs on to it even when he is thrown overboard in the harbour at Marseilles, clutches it to him as he stumbles in the Pyrenees. He makes plans for its preservation before taking his final overdose of pills.

Yet the more absurdly and obsessively he insists that his work is valuable and his life is not, the more Parini's Benjamin comes to seem human. For his friend Gershom Scholem, Benjamin's suicide marked the end of an era and a culture, the death of "the European mind". Benjamin, too, might have wanted to see it like that. Parini's novel is a poignant reminder that it was also the death of a man.

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**Wake-up call for wives**

THE puff on the cover gets it about right: Alison Lurie's latest novel is "entertainment of the classic kind". Larger-than-life characters, smart locations, big questions about love, death and lesbian romance makes it a wonderfully easy read. And whereas her earlier works about the peculiarities of American academic marriages looked deep into the wounds which changes of heart could inflict, this one concentrates on the "feel-good" factor, shrugging off the awkwardness of East Coast university life for mindless hedonism in the Florida Keys.

Jenny considers herself happily married to the eminent and ageing naturalist, Wilkie Walker. His third wife, she is the inspiration for many of his popular ideas, and has dedicated herself to researching, writing and editing much of his bestselling work. Peculiarly, despite such involvement, the beautiful Jenny does not appear to read around her husband's subject. Thus, even though she is nearly 30 years his junior, she has no idea that Walker is now considered out of date by younger, more radical contenders in his field. Her husband knows he is sidelined, that "he had brought upon himself the fate of all successful popularisers: he had made his point so well that it had become banal". Depression leads him to the

Aisling Foster  
**THE LAST RESORT**  
By Alison Lurie  
Chatto & Windus, £15.99  
ISBN 0 7011 8713 0



Lurie: a holiday romp

certainly that he is dying of cancer. He decides to let the disease take its course, and plan a fatal "accident" which will cut short the inevitable pain and mess. His secret makes him cold and defensive, so that eventually his wife becomes worried enough to suggest a move from New England to spend winter in the sun.

That shift in locale, and the changes which disorientation brings, is familiar Alison Lurie territory. This time the culture shock of Key West's colour, light and sexual honest-

ty pushes the conservative old man further into his shell and brings Jenny out of hers. The tackiness of Key West is reflected in the ragbag of characters they find there, from HIV-positive gay man through liberal artist to Born-Again Christian bigot. Not surprisingly, Walker avoids them all, and his interactions with them when attempting suicide by drowning become more amusing with every try.

Jenny's doormat devotion is harder to smile about. No matter how much we are told about this woman, so much Doris Day idiosyncrasy may eventually shift our sympathy from herself and the airhead community in which she finds her intellectual level, back to the monstrous Walker.

Not that this novel sets out to make judgments. Its message of live and let live is as seductive as the steamy climate in which it is set. Nor does it offer any happy endings.

Some characters choose to stay on in this Last Resort, in the *Ultima Thule* of the United States where everyday pressures need not apply. And the same might be said about this novel. Although it lacks the weight and acuity formerly associated with the work of Alison Lurie, its sheer wit and craziness allow it to be judged by other criteria: holiday reading at its best.

*JP 11/15/98*















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To coincide with World Cup 98 *The Times* has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to choose your own team from the cream of the world's footballers. Simply pick 11 players from all those who will be vying for your attention this summer - it couldn't be easier.

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Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team. If the last touch before a goal scorer is from a team-mate but this touch does not significantly alter the speed or direction of the ball, then two separate assists are given, one for each of the players setting up the goal. If the last touch before a goal scorer is by an opposing player and it significantly alters the speed or direction of the ball, then no assist is given. In the event of a penalty, the fouled player gets an assist if the penalty is successfully scored, but not if he takes it himself in which case no assist is given. No assist is given for a player who earns a free kick which subsequently results in a goal. The decision of Fantasy League will be final on these matters.

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Player Name	Country	Position	Code
GOALKEEPERS			
101 Carlos Kupa	ARGENTINA	Goalkeeper	9 0
102 Pablo Cavallero	ARGENTINA	Goalkeeper	0 0
103 Michael Konecny	AUSTRIA	Goalkeeper	38 0
104 Franz Wohlfahrt	AUSTRIA	Goalkeeper	30 0
105 Filip de Wilde	BELGIUM	Goalkeeper	92 0
106 Tarfah	BRAZIL	Goalkeeper	9 0
107 Carlos Gormano	BRAZIL	Goalkeeper	101 0
108 Boris Mikhailov	BULGARIA	Goalkeeper	15 0
109 Zdenko Zarnic	CAMEROON	Goalkeeper	48 0
110 Jacques Song'o	CHILE	Goalkeeper	25 0
111 Nelson Tapia	CHILE	Goalkeeper	10 0
112 Marcelo Ramirez	COLOMBIA	Goalkeeper	45 0
113 Oscar Cardozo	COLOMBIA	Goalkeeper	21 0
114 Farid Mondragon	CROATIA	Goalkeeper	18 0
115 Drazen Ladis	CROATIA	Goalkeeper	98 0
116 Bertil Stenac	DENMARK	Goalkeeper	98 0
117 Peter Schmetz	DENMARK	Goalkeeper	40 0
118 Mogens Krogh	DENMARK	Goalkeeper	40 0
119 Tom Flowers	ENGLAND	Goalkeeper	11 0
120 Nigel Martyn	ENGLAND	Goalkeeper	7 0
121 Bernard Lama	FRANCE	Goalkeeper	36 0
122 Fabrice Barthelemy	FRANCE	Goalkeeper	11 0
123 Andreas Kohle	GERMANY	Goalkeeper	51 0
124 Oliver Kahn	GERMANY	Goalkeeper	9 0
125 Ed de Gooijer	HOLLAND	Goalkeeper	22 0
126 Edwin van der Sar	HOLLAND	Goalkeeper	65 0
127 Gianluca Pagliuca	ITALY	Goalkeeper	33 0
128 Gianluigi Buffon	ITALY	Goalkeeper	33 0
129 Warren Barrett	JAMAICA	Goalkeeper	128 0
130 Yoshikazu Kawaguchi	JAPAN	Goalkeeper	24 0
131 Jorge Campos	MEXICO	Goalkeeper	30 0
132 Abdeslam El Bazzi	MOROCCO	Goalkeeper	38 0
133 Driss Benazzou	MOROCCO	Goalkeeper	5 0
134 Willy Okpara	NIGERIA	Goalkeeper	5 0
135 Peter Rufat	NIGERIA	Goalkeeper	37 0
136 Fredo Grotas	NORWAY	Goalkeeper	1 0
137 Thomas Myrre	NORWAY	Goalkeeper	1 0
138 Jose Luis Chilavert	PARAGUAY	Goalkeeper	36 4
139 Ruben Rataj Diz	PARAGUAY	Goalkeeper	45 0
140 Bogdan Stancu	ROMANIA	Goalkeeper	34 0
141 Florin Prunet	ROMANIA	Goalkeeper	27 0
142 Andre Arendse	SOUTH AFRICA	Goalkeeper	27 0
143 Hans Van der Wal	SOUTH AFRICA	Goalkeeper	8 0
144 Mohamed Al-Deneny	SAUDI ARABIA	Goalkeeper	94 0
145 Jim Leighton	SCOTLAND	Goalkeeper	88 0
146 Neil Sullivan	SCOTLAND	Goalkeeper	3 0
147 Kim Byung-il	SOUTH KOREA	Goalkeeper	31 0
148 Andoni Zubizarreta	SPAIN	Goalkeeper	123 0
149 Santiago Caizares	SPAIN	Goalkeeper	9 0
150 Ali Bouazzi	TUNISIA	Goalkeeper	11 0
151 Brad Friedel	USA	Goalkeeper	53 0
152 Kasey Keller	USA	Goalkeeper	26 0
153 Miro Kralj	YUGOSLAVIA	Goalkeeper	15 0
154 Dragoje Lovkovic	YUGOSLAVIA	Goalkeeper	11 0
DEFENDERS			
201 Nestor Sensi	ARGENTINA	Defender	42 0
202 Jose Clemente	ARGENTINA	Defender	35 2
203 Roberto Ayala	ARGENTINA	Defender	35 0
204 Javier Zanetti	ARGENTINA	Defender	29 1
205 Pablo Paz	ARGENTINA	Defender	10 1
206 Peter Schuster	AUSTRIA	Defender	50 0
207 Peter Schotthal	AUSTRIA	Defender	50 0
208 Wolfgang Feiersinger	AUSTRIA	Defender	36 0
209 Martin Herten	AUSTRIA	Defender	2 2
210 Bertand Gosselin	BELGIUM	Defender	15 1
211 Eric van Meer	BELGIUM	Defender	12 1
212 Vital Borokhman	BELGIUM	Defender	16 0
213 Eric Deflandre	BELGIUM	Defender	5 0
214 Alex	BRAZIL	Defender	82 3
215 Roberto Carlos	BRAZIL	Defender	45 2
216 Goncalves	BRAZIL	Defender	22 1
217 Ze Roberto	BRAZIL	Defender	15 1
218 Junior Balzano	BRAZIL	Defender	14 2
219 Andre Cruz	BRAZIL	Defender	29 1
220 Ze Carlos	BRAZIL	Defender	0 0
221 Tihomir Petrov	BULGARIA	Defender	72 0
222 Radoslav Kishilev	BULGARIA	Defender	22 0
223 Goshko Glanchev	BULGARIA	Defender	14 0
224 Ivko Petrov	BULGARIA	Defender	9 0
225 Rigoletto Song	CAMEROON	Defender	20 0
226 Javier Marquez	CHILE	Defender	43 3
227 Ronald Fuentes	CHILE	Defender	27 1
228 Cristian Castaneda	CHILE	Defender	17 1
229 Pedro Reyes	COLOMBIA	Defender	42 2
230 Wilmer Cabrera	COLOMBIA	Defender	40 3
231 Jorge Bermudez	COLOMBIA	Defender	12 0
232 Ivan Cordoba	COLOMBIA	Defender	38 0
233 Wilson Palacios	CROATIA	Defender	35 0
234 Robert Jarni	CROATIA	Defender	35 3
235 Steven Bilic	CROATIA	Defender	28 2
236 Igor Siksimac	CROATIA	Defender	14 0
237 Goran Juric	CROATIA	Defender	8 0
238 Marc Flepser	DENMARK	Defender	51 1
239 Jes Hogni	DENMARK	Defender	35 1
240 Ucho Okunribido	DENMARK	Defender	28 0
241 Jacob Laurson	DENMARK	Defender	21 0
242 Tony Adams	ENGLAND	Defender	51 4
243 Gary Neville	ENGLAND	Defender	27 0
244 Graeme Le Saux	ENGLAND	Defender	25 0
245 Gareth Southgate	ENGLAND	Defender	25 0
246 Martin Keown	ENGLAND	Defender	18 1
247 Rio Ferdinand	ENGLAND	Defender	6 0
248 Lahir Beal	FRANCE	Defender	3 0
249 Marcel Desailly	FRANCE	Defender	40 1
250 Lilian Thuram	FRANCE	Defender	31 0
251 Gianluca Zaccarelli	FRANCE	Defender	30 1
252 Frank Leboeuf	FRANCE	Defender	12 0
253 Lotar Matthaus	GERMANY	Defender	122 22
254 Jurgen Kohler	GERMANY	Defender	98 1
255 Stefan Reuter	GERMANY	Defender	88 2
256 Thomas Helmer	GERMANY	Defender	46 3
257 Olaf Thon	GERMANY	Defender	28 1
258 Markus Babel	GERMANY	Defender	2 0
259 Christian Wornat	HOLLAND	Defender	52 0
260 Frank de Boer	HOLLAND	Defender	26 0
261 Arthur Numan	HOLLAND	Defender	24 0
262 Michael Reiziger	HOLLAND	Defender	24 0
263 Winston Bogarde	HOLLAND	Defender	12 0
264 Sasa Simic	HOLLAND	Defender	11 0
265 Mohamad Khalilpour	IRAN	Defender	36 0
266 Paolo Maldini	ITALY	Defender	87 5
267 Alessandro Costacurta	ITALY	Defender	53 2
268 Fabio Costacurta	ITALY	Defender	13 0
269 Alessandro Nesta	ITALY	Defender	11 0
270 Giuseppe Bergomi	ITALY	Defender	7 6
271 Gianluca Pessotto	ITALY	Defender	3 0
272 Massimo Tamborini	ITALY	Defender	3 0
273 Durrant Brown	JAMAICA	Defender	128 2
274 Frank Sinclair	JAMAICA	Defender	5 0
275 Masami Ihara	JAPAN	Defender	114 5
276 Kazuo Ueki	MEXICO	Defender	32 0
277 Duilio Lobato	MEXICO	Defender	36 0
278 Pavel Pardo	MEXICO	Defender	36 0
279 Houreddine Haybat	MOROCCO	Defender	91 2
280 Ucho Okunribido	NIGERIA	Defender	41 0
281 Ter West	NIGERIA	Defender	6 0
282 Calcutine Balyarwa	NIGERIA	Defender	6 0
283 Sigi Inge Ejiroboye	NORWAY	Defender	60 1
284 Henrik Berg	NORWAY	Defender	59 0
285 Henning Berg	NORWAY	Defender	31 1
286 Ronny Johnsen	NORWAY	Defender	31 1
287 Catalino Rivera	PARAGUAY	Defender	45 4
288 Carlos Zamora	PARAGUAY	Defender	44 3
289 Francisco Arce	PARAGUAY	Defender	28 0
290 Gheorghe Popescu	ROMANIA	Defender	76 13
291 Dan Petrescu	ROMANIA	Defender	66 10
292 Tibor Selymes	ROMANIA	Defender	44 2
293 Anton Dobos	ROMANIA	Defender	20 0
294 Lucos Radebe	SOUTH AFRICA	Defender	41 1
295 Mark Fish	SOUTH AFRICA	Defender	37 2
296 Ahmed-Jamal Madani	SCOTLAND	Defender	55 2
297 Tom Boyd	SCOTLAND	Defender	3 2
298 Colin Hendry	SCOTLAND	Defender	28 1
299 Colin Calderwood	SCOTLAND	Defender	20 1
300 Tosh Mackie	SCOTLAND	Defender	20 1
301 Christian Duffly	SCOTLAND	Defender	10 1
302 Matt Elliott	SCOTLAND	Defender	3 0
303 Jackie MacInnes	SCOTLAND	Defender	4 0
304 Lee Min-Sung	SOUTH KOREA	Defender	27 0
305 Hong Myung-bo	SOUTH KOREA	Defender	92 9
306 Rafael Alkorta	SPAIN	Defender	48 0
307 Sergio Garcia	SPAIN	Defender	43 2
308 Abelardo Fernandez	SPAIN	Defender	38 1
309 Albert Ferrer	SPAIN	Defender	33 0
310 Sergi Barjuan	SPAIN	Defender	32 1
311 Sami Traoussi	TUNISIA	Defender	42 1
312 Marcelo Salas	USA	Defender	126 12
313 Alex Laha	USA	Defender	87 9
314 Zoran Mirkovic	YUGOSLAVIA	Defender	26 4
315 Goran Djorovic	YUGOSLAVIA	Defender	26 0
316 Miroslav Djudo	YUGOSLAVIA	Defender	23 1
MIDFIELDERS			
401 Diego Simeone	ARGENTINA	Midfielder	68 10
402 Ariel Ortega	ARGENTINA	Midfielder	48 7
403 Matias Almeyda	ARGENTINA	Midfielder	15 0
404 Juan Sebastian Veron	ARGENTINA	Midfielder	15 1
405 Marcelo Gallardo	ARGENTINA	Midfielder	24 10
406 Andreas Hinkel	AUSTRIA	Midfielder	93 13
407 Peter Stoger	AUSTRIA	Midfielder	34 9
408 Helmut Pfeifferberger	AUSTRIA	Midfielder	57 1
409 Ivica Kostelic	BELGIUM	Midfielder	38 13
410 Harald Cerny	BELGIUM	Midfielder	20 0
411 Franky van der Elst	BELGIUM	Midfielder	81 0
412 Enzo Scifo	BELGIUM	Midfielder	17 17
413 Lorenzo Stelena	BELGIUM	Midfielder	46 9
414 Marc Wilmots	BELGIUM	Midfielder	31 9
415 Nico van Kerckhoven	BELGIUM	Midfielder	14 0
416 Gert Verbeke	BELGIUM	Midfielder	2 0
417 Philippe Clement	BRAZIL	Midfielder	39 6
418 Leonardo	BRAZIL	Midfielder	14 5
419 Denilson	BRAZIL	Midfielder	14 5
420 Rivaldo	BRAZIL	Midfielder	8 0
421 Darke	BRAZIL	Midfielder	8 0
422 Dunga	BRAZIL	Midfielder	83 6
423 Dunga Sampaio	BRAZIL	Midfielder	13 1
424 Giovanni	BRAZIL	Midfielder	26 2
425 Zlatko Yanakov	BULGARIA	Midfielder	66 4
426 Krasimir Balakov	BULGARIA	Midfielder	65 12
427 Daniel Bodurov	BULGARIA	Midfielder	39 4
428 Vlado Vordanov	BULGARIA	Midfielder	36 1
538 Augustino Simo	CAMEROON	Midfielder	16 1
539 Salomon Omebe	CAMEROON	Midfielder	22 0
540 Luis Muzzi	CHILE	Midfielder	22 0
541 Jose Luis Sierra	CHILE	Midfielder	15 0
542 Marcelino Vega	CHILE	Midfielder	31 6
543 Clarence Acuna	COLOMBIA	Midfielder	173 16
544 Carlos Valderrama	COLOMBIA	Midfielder	36 2
545 Freddy Rincon	COLOMBIA	Midfielder	36 3
546 Mario Serna	CROATIA	Midfielder	32 1
547 Aljosa Asanovic	CROATIA	Midfielder	26 4
548 Zvonimir Boban	CROATIA	Midfielder	9 1
549 Robert Prosinecki	CROATIA	Midfielder	7 0
550 Mario Stanic	CROATIA	Midfielder	4 0
551 Krunoslav Juric	CROATIA	Midfielder	97 36
552 Silvio Maric	DENMARK	Midfielder	26 3
553 Michael Laudrup	DENMARK	Midfielder	14 5
554 Allan Nielsen	DENMARK	Midfielder	10 5
555 Per Frandsen	DENMARK	Midfielder	39 2
556 Paul Ince	ENGLAND	Midfielder	31 0
557 David Batty	ENGLAND	Midfielder	21 0
558 Steve McManaman	ENGLAND	Midfielder	18 5
559 Paul Merson	ENGLAND	Midfielder	17 2
560 Darren Anderson	ENGLAND	Midfielder	7 3
561 Robert Lew	ENGLAND	Midfielder	67 4
562 David Beckham	ENGLAND	Midfielder	35 15
563 Paul Scholes	ENGLAND	Midfielder	32 1
564 Didier Deschamps			







### Johnson keeps Essex at bay

By Richard Hobson

ILFORD (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 288 for seven wickets against Essex

WITH Essex and Nottinghamshire boasting a single championship win between them this season, and heavy showers forecast, a draw seemed the most predictable outcome to this match before the start of play. Both sides, however, will feel confident after an absorbing, evenly-contested first day.

Rain lopped just eight overs off play and Nottinghamshire, buoyed by an innings of 95 from 170 balls by Paul Johnson, may yet earn a full quota of batting points. In a perverse way they will have taken encouragement, too, from the British delivery by Cowan that reared from a length to account for Archer in mid-afternoon.

Essex will feel that the pitch has otherwise shown none of the spite its green tinge threatened and, batting fourth, hope it does not alter in character. A pair of splendid catches, moreover, helped to ensure that the Nottinghamshire total is likely to be within range.

Darren Robinson, low at slip, removed Downman in the first over after lunch, and his effort was trumped by Irani, diving to his right at third man after running 20 yards, when Johnson cut as loose a delivery as Iltis can ever have delivered. The Nottinghamshire captain deserved a hundred and his disappointment at failing to dispatch a "four-ball" was obvious.

Johnson's first six scoring shots all went to the boundary, but he became more circumspect between lunch and tea, when he accumulated just 33 runs. Archer scored at a quicker rate during the fourth-wicket stand of 120 and pulled Iltis over mid-wicket for six in a cheerful 63.

Such struggled in the cold to control his off spin as Johnson, quickly on to the backfoot, forced him for three fours in an over during the final session. At least Such received compensation when he bowled Gie and had Franks caught behind sweeping. Honours even all round.

## Michael Henderson on a bowler fast approaching ranks of greatness

# Edgbaston ready to salute as Donald homes in

IAN HOBSON

White Lightning. The Bloemfontein Brummie. A. D. Whatever pet name or abbreviation he answers to, Allan Donald will be the centre of attention at Edgbaston for the next five days. This is his first and last Test match on the ground he has adopted, in a city where he is not merely admired but widely loved, and he does not intend to finish it without making his mark.

Donald is 31, with ten brimming years behind him, five of them since his country was readmitted to Test cricket, and he is not done yet, not by a long chalk. Supremely fit, genuinely fast and a champion committed to the team, this is a cricketer to rank with the finest, living or dead.

This summer, as South Africa contest their first series of five Tests away from the republic since their return to the international stage, Donald is determined to prove himself worthy of those comparisons.

Last year, England saw the best of Glenn McGrath, the lean New South Welshman, who undermined their batting by knocking over Michael Atherton early and often. In recent summers, crowds in this country have thrilled to Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Curly Ambrose, great bowlers who have all broken the back of the England batting.

When the curtain rises on another series, they will find Donald in his white "warpaint", pawing the turf and staring with eyes that seem to say: "I'm ready, and I trust that you are. But be warned, you'll need more than hope to put out this fire." In their private moments, the England batsmen must despair that they cannot find a Vulcan figure to forge some fire of their own.

Now that Ambrose is in the autumn of his years, Waqar has lost his youthful sting and Wasim must take care of a

dodgy shoulder. McGrath is Donald's liveliest contender for the unofficial title of the world's greatest fast bowler. Donald, flat out, has the edge in pace; McGrath can bowl sharper for longer. There is little point in trying to split them. They are both ready to flog their guts out as they do the most glorious, and weary, job in cricket.

Though Shane Warne, the great Australia leg spinner, has done his best to change things, the combat between



'He will be in his warpaint, pawing the turf and ready to forge fire'

the really fast bowler and the top-class opening batsman is the most compelling in cricket, and we are ready to witness it all again. If Atherton really has rediscovered his best touch and can replicate the obduracy that enabled him to survive all that Donald could throw at him in Johannesburg three winters ago, there is going to be a right old ding-dong this summer.

Spectators in Birmingham might be in two minds whether

to celebrate with Donald when their man adds to his total of 204 Test wickets. In nine seasons at Edgbaston he has also taken 516 for Warwickshire in the county championship, 88 of them three years ago when they retained the title with 14 wins, seven of them on opponents' grounds.

So, when he speaks of "coming home" and wondering whether he will go to the wrong, "away" dressing-room this morning, he is not fibbing. He lives round the corner in Harborne with his English wife, Tina, and will be staying there throughout the match as a special dispensation. This is a man who has committed his life to the club that signed him as a 20-year-old and embraced everything that has gone with it.

It is a point worth making in a week in which Warwickshire fined Brian Lara £2,000 for not returning from Trinidad in time to play in an Axa League game at Taunton. Lara, a world star with an income to match, was appointed captain over the heads of other players who are bound more closely to the club and has so far done everything he can to make the club repent that decision at their leisure.

Donald has never held back for Warwickshire, on the field and off it, despite the many distractions of a busy international career, and so he is regarded as "one of us". He stands a tip-toe with men such as Clive Rice, Richard Hadlee, Mike Procter, Malcolm Marshall and Walsh in the list of outstanding overseas players who have played county cricket.

Now he is a South African again, the most successful bowler from that country in Test cricket, with plenty of time to add lustre to a reputation that is not short of it. It should make wonderful viewing, particularly if you are 100 yards away.



Donald practises yesterday at the ground where he has carved an unrivalled reputation

### Durham come of age with Betts

By John Stern

LORD'S (first day of four: Durham won toss): Middlesex have scored 175 for six wickets against Durham

THE injury to Simon Brown's right knee, which has allowed him only one gentle canter this season, has given Melvyn Betts extra responsibility with the new ball. Yesterday he showed again that he has the stomach and the ability for the challenge, confirming, in the process, Durham's progression from cricketing adolescence to adulthood.

Having switched to the Nursery End after tea, he took three vital wickets for five runs in 44 balls to suppress Middlesex's recovery and justify David Boon's decision to field.

Rain had made the pitch exceptionally lively for a Lord's strip. Betts, in particular, extracted bounce in his second spell, troubling Langer, who laboured almost three hours for 35. Nash, who followed the Australian, was hit on the shoulder first ball and Brown, the Middlesex captain in Rampakash's absence, gloved a ball straight up in the air, surviving only because Betts could not quite make the catch in time.

Betts, who is now the leading wicket-taker in the country with 25, had Langer, the nation's leading run-scorer, who now has 800 for the season, caught at first slip by Collingwood with the fourth ball of his new spell.

That wicket, in the 42nd over, ended a partnership of 64 for the third wicket between Langer and Shah who, by that stage, had actually overhauled his partner's total.

Shah drove beautifully despite the testing conditions and looked more settled than anyone, hitting seven fours in his 47, before unluckily playing on to Betts. Brown made three from 25 balls before being slightly squared up by Betts and caught in the gully by Gough.

Nash, the busy former England Under-19 wicketkeeper, who is in good form at the moment, hustled and harried his way to 26 but gave a catch to Speight off Harrison, leaving Middlesex 163 for six before bad light curtailed the day's play soon afterwards.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

### SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Tom Townsend, ex-junior world champion, described his play on this hand from the Toffemache Cup as "Unlucky Expert".

Dealer South	Love all	IMPs
♠ 7	♠ A Q 4	♠ 5 5 3 2
♣ 9	♣ Q 8 2	♣ J 7 5 4 3
♦ J 10 8 7 5 3 2	♦ Q	♦ K 4
♥ 10 6 3	♥ A 8 4 2	♥ Q 7
	N	
	W	
	E	
	♠ K J 10 9 8	
	♣ K 10 8	
	♦ A	
	♥ K J 9 5	

S	W	N	E
Townsend	2 D (1)	Mossop	Pass
1 S	Pass	3 D	Pass
3 C	Pass	4 S	Pass
3 H	Pass	6 C	All Pass
5 D	Pass		

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: Jack of diamonds

(1) Most players would pre-empt.  
(2) Negative.

The safest small slam is Six Spades, but Six Clubs is also very good. How should declarer solve what appears to be his only problem, holding the defenders to one trump trick?

ACE and another club loses two tricks when West holds Q 10 x x. A first-round finesse of the jack falls when West wins the singleton queen. Running the jack loses out when East wins the queen from Q 10 x x and forces declarer to ruff a diamond. The normal safety play with the combination is to start with the king, then lead low towards the eight, but this will also fail when East holds Q 10 x x: he can win the third round and play a diamond, forcing declarer to ruff with the jack.

After some thought, declarer demonstrated an alternative play which was also 100 per cent safe for one loser, at least in the club suit. This was to cash the king, cross to dummy on the ace of hearts, and lead towards the jack, neutralising Q 10 x x on either side. East holding Q 10 x x can win the queen and play a diamond, but declarer can ruff with the nine, cash the jack, and cross to dummy to draw the outstanding trump with the ace and claim. This was not a triumph when East won with the doubleton queen and dealt West a heart ruff. Embarrassing for the boy.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OPSTER  
a. The infant lobster  
b. An artist  
c. A cook

RETRICK  
a. To overtrump at bridge  
b. To shine again  
c. A back somersault

SAMHAIN  
a. Trefail hay  
b. A mule cart  
c. November 1

PAPRIKAHUHN  
a. A boar hound  
b. Chicken in sauce  
c. A fire-eater

Answers on page 48

### KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shirov leads

Alexei Shirov retained his narrow lead after a draw in the seventh game of his qualifying match to determine the challenger to Garry Kasparov later this year. Playing Black, Shirov defended solidly but later in the game his opponent, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster, sacrificed material to freshen up his chances. However, the best that could be achieved was a dynamic imbalance and the sixth draw between the pair came on move 34.

There are now three games remaining. Shirov leads by one point and has the advantage of two Whites from three in the final stretch. Having started as the underdog, Shirov must now be the clear favourite to go through.

White: Vladimir Kramnik  
Black: Alexei Shirov  
Candidates' match  
Game seven, Cazorla 1998

Granfeld Defence

1	d4	N6
2	c4	g6
3	g3	c6
4	Nf3	Bg7
5	Nc3	0-0
6	Qb3	0-0
7	Bg2	Bf5
8	0-0	Bf5
9	Ne5	ef6
10	Bf4	Nb7
11	Qxb6	axb6
12	h3	Ne5
13	Bee6	g5
14	e4	Bg6
15	b3	Rf8
16	Rf1	0-0
17	ba4	Ng4

Diagram of final position

8									
7									
6									
5									
4									
3									
2									
1									
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	

Capablanca memorial

Each year the Cuban Chess Federation organises a tournament in honour of their great world champion, José Capablanca, who held the title from 1921-27. This year first prize was shared between Hubner, Morovic and Silberman, all of whom scored seven out of 11. Tony Miles, of Great Britain, shared fourth place with 6½, while Etienne Bacrot scored five.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Candidates' match cross-table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
Kramnik	1	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	2 1/2
Shirov	1/2	1	1	1	1	1	3 1/2

In the above table, 1 represents a win, 1/2 a draw and 0 a loss

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Dautov - Huzman, Dresden 1998.

The white rook on e4 is threatened by both the black queen and knight. Can White do better than retreating?

Solution on page 48

Trescott rekindled old flame

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CRICKET

Trescothick rekindles old flames

BY SIMON WILDE

TAUNTON (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss); Somerset have scored 253 for five wickets against Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE bring out the best in Marcus Trescothick when he is feeling low. Eleven months ago this once much-praised talent was languishing in Somerset's second team and hitting consolation hundreds for Keynsham, his club side. Then he came up against the Midlands and struck 322, a record for the second XI championship.

Somerset could hardly leave him out of the first team after that, but he waited until yesterday for the sort of innings that should convince the former England Under-19 captain, now 22, that he is capable of touching the old heights. An unbeaten 84, his highest in over almost two years, was a rousing, meaty knock that halted Warwickshire in their tracks.

When Trescothick went in, Somerset were 52 for four on a green, seaming pitch and apparently with the skids under them. Turner had just retired with a bruised arm, courtesy of a sharp blow from Giddins. Nothing was more predictable than a short stay from Trescothick, whose game has been racked by technical problems.

Instead, in partnership with Ecclestone, Trescothick turned the game round during a terrific stand of 190 in 49 overs that had Warwickshire heads hanging and Brian Lara at a loss as to where his next wicket was coming from. When it eventually arrived, Ecclestone falling six short of his hundred shortly before the close, it was from the unexpected source of Hemp, an occasional trundler, and was as much a surprise to the bowler as everyone else.

Ecclestone's innings was as entertaining as Trescothick's. Both left-handers enjoy driving the ball hard but there are also contrasts between them. Whereas declining fitness caused Ecclestone to give up his all-rounder status — knee

trouble prevents him from bowling — Trescothick has returned from a winter in Australia physically and mentally sharper than ever, and with an extra string to his bow.

He is now an all-rounder rather than a batsman, with 27 wickets to his credit this season from bowling that is reckoned to be a yard quicker in pace. This success has enabled him to keep doubts over his batting from dominating his thoughts. When he strode to a half-century off 58 balls yesterday, it was his first in the championship since last August.

Fine Somerset recovery though it was, there was a suspicion of Warwickshire cock-up as well, for here was another perverse performance from Lara on his return to the ground at which he arrived too late to play on Sunday. He was in time to win the toss and do the obvious thing in putting Somerset in, but perhaps the sleep was still in his eyes when he awarded two early lives to Harden.

Lara was saved by the skill of his bowlers, Giddins and Brown each claiming two wickets, and Harden's generosity in top-edging a hook into Piper's hands. The other casualties were victims of good bowling, especially Lathwell, who promised what Trescothick, his kindred spirit, later produced before he was pounced by Brown's excellent low slip catch.

Despite three stoppages keeping his quicker bowlers fresh, Lara opted to channel his attack through the spin of Welch and Giles for little tangible reward. Somerset's fifth-wicket pair plundered them with alacrity, four pulls bringing Trescothick 18 runs off Giles's first over, immediately before lunch.

Ecclestone's mature performance must have doubly infuriated Lara. In his role as Somerset's acting captain, who refused the tardy Trinidadian permission to play last weekend.



Kirtley resists Hooper on his way to a century partnership with Humphries that rescued Sussex from 84 for seven

Humphries and Kirtley save the day

BY JACK BAILEY

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (first day of four; Kent won toss); Kent, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Sussex

THIS cross-border raid by Sussex began with all guns blazing. In no time at all, though, it developed into a long rearguard action, led by their eighth-wicket pair, Shaun Humphries and James Kirtley. If they are not careful, these two will be gaining a reputation for this kind of thing. Last week, they added

79 for the eighth Sussex wicket against Worcestershire.

This latest effort was of even greater significance, both in terms of runs scored and for its potential influence on the outcome of the match. For when Humphries and Kirtley came together, Sussex had subsided to 84 for seven during the course of 45 overs and were all but vanquished. Their century partnership in 60 overs, with both achiev-

ing the best scores of their careers, was painstakingly achieved and this lovely ground has certainly seen more exciting days.

It was not long before the reasons for Marsh's tactic of asking Sussex to bat first became apparent. The pitch was no place for stroke-makers. Solid graft was the order of the day. Fortunately for Kent, it took the Sussex batsmen a long time to realise this. One by one they came in,

were pinned down, struggled for runs, played their shots and left.

Matthew Fleming finally captured the wicket of Kirtley to break a stand that had seemed destined to go on for ever. Between times, Adams held out, impatiently, to long leg. Bevan drove firmly, only to be caught by the finer of two gullies; Carpenter was bamboozled by Hooper's quicker arm ball and Marsh claimed his third and fourth victims in the shape of Edwards and Newell.

Astle sets out to repair damage

NEW ZEALAND ended a rain-affected first day's play at 96 for four in the second Test against Sri Lanka yesterday.

Stephen Fleming, confident after winning the first Test, elected to bat. Matthew Horne was the first to be dismissed in only the third over when he was caught behind off Niroshan Bandara's ball for one with the total at five. Fleming was caught leg-before to Kumara Dharmasena for 14 in the second over after tea.

Bryan Young and Nathan Astle played cautiously and punished loose balls in a determined bid to repair the innings with a stand of 69 for the third wicket. Young was eventually caught for 46 and Daniel Vettori went cheaply. When bad light stopped play, Astle was unbeaten on 30.

Ratcliffe shows frisky side

THE OVAL (first day of four; Surrey won toss); Surrey have scored 193 for three wickets against Worcestershire

AFTER a day interrupted by rain, the jury remains out on whether the delayed midday start and free entry at tea is likely to pull in the after-work spectators (Barney Spender writes).

When the gates opened yesterday, it was less of a flood and more of a trickle but that may have had something to do with the inclement weather and the fact that, while Graeme Hick spent the day in the field, the leading lights of Surrey's batting line-up, Stewart, Butcher and Thorpe, are away on Test duty.

Somehow the prospect of rushing down to the Oval to watch Jason Ratcliffe and Ian Ward does not hold the same attraction. Even so, the Surrey opening pair

made sure that the championship leaders made the most of winning the toss. The pitch produced some movement for the quicker bowlers and some bounce and turn for Solanki and Illingworth, who picked up the three wickets that fell.

They added 164 for the first wicket before Ward was leg-before to Illingworth for a career best 64. Ratcliffe began quietly but on reaching his fifty showed the more frisky side of his batting, using his feet and stroking two sweet soaks, a sweep off Illingworth over mid-wicket and a drive off Solanki over mid-off.

A straight drive off Illingworth brought his thirteenth boundary and his fifth first-class century from 193 balls. Three balls later he was bowled sweeping at Illingworth who promptly had a disgruntled Adam Holloake leg-before first ball.

Dale stays defiant in difficult conditions

BY IVO TENNANT

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four; Hampshire won toss); Hampshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 269 runs behind Glamorgan

NO COUNTY is as much in need of a victory as Hampshire, who, having collected just 16 points from three matches, reside at the foot of the championship table. Mindful that Wasar Younis was not fit, they produced a pitch as green as any since Malcolm Marshall's time, won the toss and bowled the champions out for 269.

Hampshire were left to face 16 overs and, in decidedly murky light, lost Stephenson in the second of these before the players came off for rain.

At no stage was batting anything other than tricky against bowlers who moved the ball through the air as well as off the pitch. Mascarenhas, in particular, benefited more than McLean, who, at this stage of his career, reasons still to make the most of his good luck.

The two batsmen who contended with this were Dale, who made 92 off 219 balls with eight fours and a five, his highest score of the season, and Powell, whose innings of 52 was that of a young cricketer with quite a future. Pity he spoilt it by choosing to salute only his colleagues on the boundary when he reached his half-century.

No other Glamorgan batsman got going. Steve James was dropped twice before he was leg before to his namesake, Kevan. Evans luckily played on to McLean, the ball coming off his elbow, and when Maynard was caught at the wicket and Cottee bowled without offering a shot, they were in some trouble. Dale managed only 43 runs in the post-lunch session in his attempts to consolidate. Powell, whose half-century included seven fours, was well held by Smith at mid-off, and Dale lost Butcher and Shaw before he was caught at the wicket attempting to drive Mascarenhas, who finished with four for 68. Parkin and Watkin added 24 to give Glamorgan a total which, given the conditions, was not unsatisfactory.

Lancashire wilt as Rose starts to bloom

BY JOHN THICKESSE

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss); Lancashire have scored 152 for eight

KEVIN CURRAN won what might prove to be a decisive toss at the County Ground yesterday, and for the first time in the championship, Franklyn Rose, Northamptonshire's 26-year-old West Indies fast bowler, displayed the qualities that won him back his Test place against England in Antigua last winter.

On a pitch not short of pace or bounce, Rose had five wickets for 65 to his name when rain and bad light brought an interrupted day to its conclusion 90 minutes before the scheduled close. Judgment of Northamptonshire's experiment of putting back the start until noon, in the hope of attracting spectators going home from work, must therefore be postponed.

Lancashire may have feared an even more testing day after Rose's first ball, a fast leg-cutter, brushed Crawley's outside edge and raced to the boundary between the wicket-keeper and first slip, bouncing before it reached them.

Nothing Rose subsequently bowled set the batsmen problems as impossible to solve as that. By maintaining a fuller length than in many of his previous county spells, and frequently moving the ball off the seam towards a five-man slip field, he came within a wicket of doubling his first-class tally for the season.

It is hard to think of a pair of post-war county opening bowlers as fast as Rose and Devon Malcolm. Yesterday Malcolm had to wait until he switched to Rose's end before he took a wicket, whereupon he took two with successive balls. Against the odds, Malcolm's hat-trick ball was also on target but Hegg pushed it past mid-on for four.

Amid the falling wickets, Andrew Flintoff stood out, not only for his size but for the power of his driving. One of the nine fours his 46, off 51 balls, contained, was thrashed head-high past Malcolm in his follow-through. Flintoff perished adventurously to Rose, caught overhead by Curran at mid-off.

Sussex to stage late shows

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SUSSEX are to start their next two championship matches at Hove two hours later than normal in an attempt to increase crowds. The games, against Warwickshire on June 17 and Somerset on July 1, will now begin at 1pm and finish at 8.30pm.

Tony Figott, the Sussex chief executive, explained: "A finish time of 8.30pm will considerably increase viewing time. Cricket has got to be more proactive to get audiences for four-day games. We're looking to attract audiences when they can come to the cricket and this is after school or work. "A late start was tried last year with a fair amount of success and, with this sign of approval, we've decided to repeat it again this year."

Yorkshire have been forced to withdraw from the Harrogate festival next week because of their involvement in the Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals. Instead, an International XI will now play Southland at Harrogate on Monday, with Northamptonshire meeting Hampshire in the second semi-final of the Cost Cutter Cup on Tuesday.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table containing cricket scoreboards for various matches including Middlesex v Durham, Northamptonshire v Lancashire, Hampshire v Glamorgan, Kent v Sussex, Somerset v Warwickshire, and Surrey v Worcestershire. Each entry lists batsmen, bowlers, and match statistics.

Advertisement for 'active' magazine. Features a large image of the magazine cover with the headline 'Newspaper on the go!' and 'active'. Text includes 'Not what you'd expect from a computer magazine!' and 'How to ride your millenium ones and twos'.

Large advertisement for 'CHEER UP GAZZA YOU CAN STILL PLAY WITH US.' Promotes the 'WORLD CUP 98' and a 'Team Check' promotion where playing the 30p Times magazine can win a share of £50,000, a Vauxhall car, or World Cup tickets. Includes logos for 'THE TIMES' and 'CHANGING TIMES'.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'DAY JUNE 4 1998', 'urries', 'ite the', 'mbers', 'SAFA', 'collapse', 'PUTTING', 'YOU', 'together'.



GOLF: 17-YEAR-OLD WALKER CUP PLAYER BEATEN IN FIRST ROUND OF AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT MUIRFIELD

Rose found wanting against best of Bunch

BY JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

AT 17 it can be hard to take the knocks that a game like golf can hand out because one is hardly prepared for them.



Bunch took advantage of Rose's mistakes during his first-round victory at Muirfield yesterday. Photograph: Tom Hevizi

So it was something of a shock for Justin Rose, the talented 17-year-old, to be beaten in the first round of an Amateur championship for which he was a legitimate contender at Muirfield yesterday.

It is relatively easy to be magnanimous in victory. It is in defeat that one's character comes through. Rose, though clearly disappointed at losing by one hole to James Bunch, a member of the St Andrews New Club who is studying at North Carolina State University, tried to remember his manners after he walked off the 18th green and went a long way towards succeeding.

down after two holes, having three-putted the 1st and then over-shot the 2nd green. More crucially, though, a good run of pars got him one up after 14. That should have been enough to see him home but it was not

He lost the 15th when he drove into the rough and then signed his own death warrant by pulling his tee-shot on the short 16th into a horrible lie. "From there he had to hit it as hard as he could just to get

it onto the green." Bunch said. Rose took an enormous heave and the ball did reach the putting surface but it was not close enough for him to single-putt. Rose's birdie up the 17th was matched by Bunch and

then they halved the 18th as well. Rose's 25-foot putt for a birdie that would have taken the match down the 19th stopping just inches short of its target. Peter McEvoy, the captain

of the Great Britain and Ireland side, was one of those who had watched Rose, having got up at the crack of dawn. McEvoy wondered whether this defeat would affect the young Englishman

and, if so, how. Rose himself supplied the answer. "It makes no difference in the long term." Rose, clearly annoyed by himself, said, "I hate playing badly on such a perfect day. The stormy weather that had hit Scotland almost every day for the past week relented yesterday. There was only a slight wind blowing and the skies were clear."

Graham Rankin is probably the best amateur in Scotland and perhaps the best amateur in Britain at the moment. He won Scotland's Champion of Champions competition recently as well as the Craigmillar Park event and, having won the Lytham Trophy by nine strokes last year, only lost it this year in a play-off. Then, to underline his talent, Rankin, 31, defeated Garcia in the Scotland v Spain international last week.

Rankin, an unemployed bricklayer's labourer, went round in 70 against Antony Grenier, of France, and only won by one hole. The reason was that Grenier's putter was red-hot. He took only 14 putts on the first 13 greens, 21 in all.

Trevor Immelman began his attempt to become Amateur champion by beating Randolph Haag 3 and 2. Immelman, a gifted South African, was 17 last year when he almost became the youngest winner of this distinguished championship. Immelman lost in the final. Perhaps that was a thought to console Rose. Sometimes golf does deal 17-year-olds a tough hand.

SPORT IN BRIEF Ireland suffer second blow

RUGBY UNION: Ireland lost the second match of their South African tour yesterday, going down 27-20 to South Western Districts in a scrappy encounter at Outeniqua Park, George. The touring side trailed 14-11 at half-time and never hit their stride against a provincial side determined to gain its first win against overseas opposition in 18 attempts since 1910. Tony Foley scored Ireland's only try and David Humphreys kicked five penalties.

BASKETBALL: The Budweiser league welcomed Edinburgh to its ranks yesterday in the latest move aimed at making the sport a success north of the border (Nicholas Harling writes). Their coach is Jim Brandon, who left Manchester Giants a month ago. Edinburgh will play in the Meadowbank sports hall.

SNOOKER: The power struggle in the sport is expected to be resolved today when eight leading players will attempt to overthrow the chairman, Rex Williams, and the Board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association at an extraordinary general meeting.

SAILING: After two days of hard-fought match racing in fresh conditions, Gavin Brady, of New Zealand, leads the Hoya Royal Lyngby-tan Cup from Bertrand Pace, of France. Chris Law, the defending champion, was tied with his fellow Briton, Ian Williams, in third place.

Joseph Dillon, Scottish hockey correspondent for The Times, has died of a heart attack, aged 58. Dillon, who worked for nearly every media outlet in Scotland during the recent World Cup in Holland, collapsed and died at his home in Bellshill, Lanarkshire, on Tuesday. He leaves a wife, Christine, two sons and a daughter.

Davies savours home comforts

EARLY morning rain failed to dampen the opening day of the Evian Masters here yesterday as Europe's leading women golfers revelled in their return from exile in the United States.

Carin Koch, a Swede whose game has been revived by a more mellow mood and two new coaches, led the way with a 67, five under par. She was one shot ahead of four players: the English duo of Laura Davies and Diane Barnard, who, like Koch, are battle-hardened after a tour of duty Stateside; Stephanie Dallongeville, a stocky Frenchwoman whose last serious outing was in Asia in February; and Jane Leary, an Australian who has to fly high since she is sponsored by Qantas.

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN EVIAN-LES-BAINS, FRANCE

Koch, whose husband, Stefan, caddies for her, is fresh from two weeks at home in Gothenburg and full of confidence after a second place and a fourth in the US this season. She has the Solheim Cup at the back of her mind but said: "I'm not going to do what I did last time," which was wind herself in knots trying to make the team. Davies, a cup certainty, took some welcome steps towards recovering the joie de golf that has been dissipated by what she called "a year of massive disappointment". "I've not been enjoying it," she said, "but I enjoyed today." Using

her driver sparingly, she missed only one green in a round of 68 that included four birdies, with not a bogey in sight. "It's only one round of golf," she said, "but it was very satisfactory after last week, when I thought it was the end of the world." The former world No 1 had been devastated by a first round of 83 but admitted that life in the US, so good when things are going well, could be "a bit of a drag when it's a bit of a struggle because you're so far from home". That is the pull of Europe - Davies spent last Sunday at home and will be in Surrey again this Sunday. "Just the way it should be," she sighed.

Montgomerie's evergreen flaw

SUCH high standards does Colin Montgomerie set himself that a finish even in the lowest of double figures goes down in his book as "mediocre - could do better".

Europe's leading golfer shared tenth place in the Deutsche Bank SAP Open in Germany on Monday and flew out of Hamburg with self-recrimination ringing in his ears. He plans to do much better in the £650,000 National Car Rental English Open that starts at Hanbury Manor today. Montgomerie believes that he is hitting the ball as well, tee to green, as he has since finishing second to Steve Elkington in the US PGA Championship at Riviera Country Club, in Los Angeles, three years

ago. His problem, if he has one at all, comes when he gets on the green, where he reckons he is not holing as many putts as he should, and has the figures to prove it. "I don't know how many putts I had in the Deutsche Bank," he said. "I know it was too many." It is a problem that dates back to that week in California in 1995. "I was never in a bunker there, hit 69 out of 72 greens in regulation and had 17 putts more than Steve." Even with all those missed putts, he took Elkington to a play-off before capitulating at the first extra hole. The statistics were supported by a repeat performance in this year's

US Masters. Montgomerie was beaten by a mere five shots by O'Meara, but took 15 putts more than the eventual champion. "That proves it," he said. "I'm always near the top of greens in regulation and fairways hit, so if I'm near the top in putting, I usually win. Fifteen or 17 putts more than the champion is too many in major tournaments." Given that Montgomerie is the man to beat at Hanbury Manor, but if anybody is going to upset the odds, it is likely to be either Lee Westwood or Darren Clarke. Like Montgomerie, both have won in the last month and neither is frightened by the European No 1. All three should be in contention for the big prizes on Sunday.

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FOR THE RECORD BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 2 Florida 1, Pittsburgh 5 New York Mets 2 Philadelphia 3 Montreal 4 Milwaukee 0 Atlanta 9 Colorado 3 Arizona 9 Los Angeles 4 St Louis 7 San Diego 3 Houston 4, San Francisco 4 Cincinnati 2. AMERICAN LEAGUE: Minnesota 10 Oakland 3, Baltimore 9 Seattle 8, Tampa Bay 3 Texas 7, Detroit 3 Cleveland 8, Toronto 3 Boston 11, New York Yankees 6 Chicago White Sox 3, Kansas City 5 Anaheim 7. CYCLING GIRO D'ITALIA: Seventeenth stage (Sogno to Sella Val Gardena, 217km) 1, G. Geronzi (I), Team Polti 2; 19km S.S. 2, M. Panzani (I), Mercatone Uno same time, 3, J.J. Coppel (USA), same time, 4, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 5, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 6, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 7, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 8, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 9, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 10, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 11, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 12, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 13, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 14, D. Casarotto (I), same time, 15, D. 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FOOTBALL

Scots reach for Sky in £45m deal

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SCOTTISH football has long been regarded as the poor relation when compared with the multimillion-pound treasure trove that is the FA Carling Premiership. Now, though, the balance is shifting with the announcement yesterday of a £45 million deal with Sky Sports that the clubs in the new Scottish Premiership are hoping will eventually give them the same high profile as their counterparts south of the border.

payments, with the rest determined by final league placings from last season and the number of home games each club will have televised. David Murray, the Rangers chairman, confidently predicted that the deal with Sky, which is part-owned by News International, owners of The Times, would see the new Scottish Premiership flourish along the same lines as its English counterpart. "In recent years, we have all seen the improvements in the English Premiership, which is due in no small part to the additional revenue and strong marketing which Sky has helped bring to the game," Murray said.

Yugoslavia indebted to Mihajlovic's goal

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SINISA MIHAJLOVIC'S second-half goal gave Yugoslavia a 1-0 victory over Japan, a fellow World Cup qualifier, in an evenly balanced match yesterday.

live coverage of the Nationwide League and English Premiership games — is an indication of Scottish football's standing. Martyn Rose, secretary of the Scottish Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, said: "There's definitely a touch of 'we know our place' about it. Unfortunately, the supporters will just have to hope that the money coming into clubs will help them buy better players and that the product will get better."

It was Japan's final warm-up match against another national side — Yugoslavia plays non-qualifier Switzerland in Basle on Saturday.

Crystal Palace, despite being relegated from the Premiership, can look forward to European football next season after being confirmed as England's representatives in the Inter-Toto Cup. Palace need to win three ties to enter the draw for the UEFA Cup. Carlo Nash, the Palace goalkeeper, has taken a pay cut to join Stockport County on a free transfer after losing his first-team place to Kevin Miller.

Yugoslavia, coached by Stobodan Santrac, faces the United States, Germany and Iran in its qualification group in France. Japan, under

Doncaster Rovers have retained only four players, Darren Brookes, Harvey Cunningham, Danny George and Lee Warren, the captain, after their relegation from the Nationwide League to the Vauxhall Conference.

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Diprose about to be charged by his team-mate, Phil Greening, in training yesterday

Diprose leads raw crew

FROM DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN BRISBANE

FOR Australia, their work towards the 1999 World Cup will begin on Saturday when they meet England at the Suncorp Stadium here. England, who hoped their own work towards that goal had begun last November, commence the process over again in what they hope will be a complementary layer sufficient to cover the absence of so many experienced but injured players.

assigned. "It isn't like Matt was the best No.9, I would pick someone else," he said, as Scott Benton, Gloucester's first England scrum half since Peter Kingston in 1979, accustomed himself to the thought of making his debut against the experienced George Gregan.

Woodward, the England coach, has no great awe of the role of captain. His players are picked on form and fitness, after which the leadership is

his seven caps, the first won just over a year ago in Argentina, two have been as a replacement and now he must lead a raw XV into action by setting the most positive example. But he will also demand responsible performances from such individuals as Gareth Archer and Richard Cockerill, Austin Healey and Matt Perry, players still making their international way but senior to one-third of the team who are making their bow.

They cycle to training on mountain bikes as Macquoen, who took over as national coach in late October, puts shape down a side seven of whom did not start against England at Twickenham last November.

They cycle to training on mountain bikes as Macquoen, who took over as national coach in late October, puts shape down a side seven of whom did not start against England at Twickenham last November.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goodway calls up promising Deacon

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVING

FOURTEEN years separate Paul Deacon, 19, from Paul Sterling, at 33 the oldest member of the "emerging" England squad named yesterday for the game against Wales next month. Nonetheless, the pair will be competing for places in the Great Britain side to face New Zealand in the autumn.

Before moving to Bradford Bulls, Deacon came under the wing at Oldham last season of Andy Goodway, the England and Great Britain coach, who believes the teenager has all the qualities of a future international half back. The form of the evergreen Sterling made it impossible for Goodway not to pick him.

Even with Sterling and Steve Molloy, 29, the Sheffield Eagles prop, one of only three players with limited Great Britain experience, a total of 22,500 spectators would frequently watch ice hockey at three venues in London on Saturday night.

Anschutz Sports Holdings Ltd (ASH), whose American parent company owns the Los Angeles Kings in the National Hockey League, is investing £5 million in the team.

The Knights, whose first game is expected to be in September, are hoping to attract capacity crowds of 10,000 to the refurbished Arena, close to Canary Wharf. A permanent ice plant is being installed on the site.

In its heyday in Britain in the early 1970s, a total of 22,500 spectators would frequently watch ice hockey at three venues in London on Saturday night.

Anschutz can certainly be encouraged by the growing popularity of the Superleague in provincial cities. Average attendances have risen by 55 per cent since 1995-96. Last season, Manchester Storm averaged 10,000 and the Sheffield Steelers 6,500.

However, ice hockey in London might go the way of American football. When the London Monarchs played at Wembley in the 1990s, they sometimes drew 60,000 but gradually the crowds diminished and recently they have been playing at Crystal Palace and Bristol.

Chris Hunt, the ASH managing director, accepted that there were difficulties but said: "We will have to do a lot more than we can be doing at the moment to get down to a level where we can be seen as a genuine American import."

ICE HOCKEY

Knights to play in premier league

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE London Knights will join the eight-team UK Superleague next season. The Knights, who will be based at the London Arena, will be the capital's first ice hockey team to play in the premier league since the Streatham Redskins in 1989, and the first professional club since the London Lions in 1974.

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YOUR GUIDE TO THE 32 SQUADS IN THE WORLD CUP FINALS

A grid of 32 boxes, each representing a national football team. Each box contains the team name, a list of goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders, and forwards. The teams are grouped into four main sections: Group A (Brazil, Scotland, Norway, Morocco), Group B (Italy, Chile, Cameroon, Austria), Group C (France, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, South Africa), Group D (Spain, Nigeria, Paraguay, Bulgaria), Group E (Holland, Belgium, South Korea, Mexico), Group F (Germany, Yugoslavia, Iran, United States), Group G (England, Romania, Colombia, Tunisia), and Group H (Argentina, Croatia, Jamaica, Japan).



# Making lottery of sporting heritage

Stand by for a world record in the merry sport of spending other people's money. Up for sale are the medals of Bobby Moore, captain of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team. Along with the medals are 43 of his England caps, a Footballer of the Year trophy and a silver salver marking his hundredth appearance for his country.

This nostalgic collection has been kicked on to the market in the fevered run-up to the World Cup finals this summer by Moore's first wife, Tina, who somehow ended up with the lot after he died, aged 51, from cancer five years ago. There is talk of £2.2 million, the bulk of it National Lottery money, being paid for the medals and trophies to "save them for the nation".

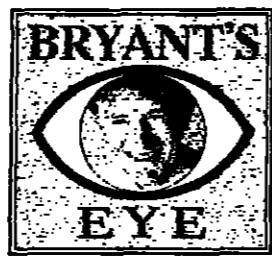
What is amazing about this is not that they are up for sale, but that the new football museum in Preston wants them, not even that West Ham United would like to get their hands on them, but the absurd — price tag being slapped on this bag of memories. £2.2 million is staggering.

Flogging off medals and other chunks of sporting history is a fast-growing and profitable business, and the arenas where the big prices

are being knocked up are the auction rooms. Christie's held its first sale dedicated to football memorabilia in 1989 and its football specialist, Grant MacDougall, describes the Moore collection as "the crown jewels of soccer memorabilia. I have specialised in this field for nine years and I can honestly say that I have seen nothing to match this."

Well, he would say that, wouldn't he? A price tag of a couple of million on this collection will do the prices at Christie's regular auctions of sporting history no harm at all. Before the lottery benefactors foot the bill, though, they should look very hard at such a valuation. Like everything else connected with football, the selling of its past is subject to crazy inflation.

In the first sale of football memorabilia ten years ago, an FA Cup Final medal won by Alex James, of Arsenal, in 1930 raised £5,000, which was considered an extraordinary sum at the time. Since then, increasing interest from collectors has pushed up the value of medals and caps, particularly those associated with famous games and players. They provide a good return at auction and, where players have fallen



on hard times, a nest egg for retirement.

In 1992, Bill Foulkes, one of the surviving Busby Babes, sold his medals, including his 1968 Manchester United European Cup winners' medal, for £11,000. Heer, after losing heavily as a Lloyd's name in

## Flogging off medals is a growing, profitable business

the insurance crash six years ago, auctioned his Lonsdale Belts, which brought him £42,000. Ray Kennedy, the former Arsenal and Liverpool footballer, sold his medals, shirts and trophies in 1993. He badly needed money after he retired because of Parkinson's disease in 1985. His collection brought him more than £88,000.

These are all handsome

returns for those who put their memories up for sale, but none come anywhere near the millions being touted for the Moore medals. The whole thing is even more incongruous when you consider why medals were dished out in sport in the first place.

The Victorians were to blame. A century and more ago they were making desperate efforts to ring-fence their concept of the gentleman-amateur. They had a horror of prize-money and tried to replace all cash rewards with honorary — medals, cups and shields.

Scandalously, these hard-won amateur prizes soon started popping up in pawn shops. It now looks as if the National Lottery might be playing the part of the biggest pawnbroker of all, with endless millions to throw around.

Of course, if you are going to sell your medals rather than treasure them or give them away, there is no reason why you should not get the best price. What is in question here, though, is the valuation of more than £2 million and whether this is the best use of lottery money.

English football, rightly.

Moore's medals and caps to be secure in this country, but why cannot a sport that thinks nothing of paying many millions to transfer less than £2.2 million itself? And if the lottery has this sort of money to push the way of sport, then how about a few more playing fields, tennis courts or a bit of coaching for the Bobby Moores of tomorrow?

In 1966 you could have bought the whole of the England World Cup team twice over for £2 million. Two weeks after the final, Alan Ball was transferred from Blackpool to Everton for £110,000.

Football was very different value then. To watch the 1966 World Cup a "season ticket" for ten games (including the final, one semi-final, and one quarter-final) would have cost £25.75 for the best seats and only £3.87 if you were prepared to stand.

Three decades on, we accept sadly that the cost of seats and the price of players have both gone crazy. But if the lottery purse-holders really want to add to this lunacy by shelling out £2 million or so for the Bobby Moore memorabilia, perhaps we should be presenting them with a medal for madness.

JOHN BRYANT

## TENNIS: LONE FRENCHMAN PREVENTS SPANISH CLEAN SWEEP IN SEMI-FINALS

# Pioline defies years and Arazi

FROM JULIAN MUSCATE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN PARIS

ONLY Cedric Pioline stands in the way of a Spanish benefit here after the Frenchman, willed to victory by vociferous home support, edged out Hicham Arazi in five compelling sets. Pioline tomorrow plays Alex Corretja, a facile winner over Filip Dewulf, for a place in the final on Sunday.

Pioline's victory was brilliantly executed. The way he nursed his fading stamina through three hours 42 minutes represented a rare triumph for ageing limbs. There were times when Arazi's mesmeric skills might have sapped his morale but Pioline, a Wimbledon finalist last year,



Arazi, of Morocco, shows intense concentration in his match against Pioline, of France

points in each of his first three service games. Arazi was to pay heavily for his profligacy. Having been secure on his serve for 11 successive games, he suddenly collapsed to hand Pioline the initiative at 4-2.

The Frenchman faced another break point when serving for the match at 5-3. However, with the winning point in sight, Pioline dug in, courtesy of two sloppy errors from Arazi, for a famous victory. He will have to play with equal courage to beat Corretja, who gained both verdicts in their two previous matches on clay.

Ironically, Corretja was the man most likely to collapse at the start of the week. The Spaniard, seeded No 14, completed a five-and-a-half hour

Results ..... 48

victory over Hernan Gumy on Sunday but has since regrouped to telling effect. He followed up on Monday with a straight-sets defeat of Jason Stoltenberg and he repeated the dose yesterday against Dewulf, of Belgium.

Corretja had every incentive. It was Dewulf who ended the French Open aspirations of Corretja 12 months ago, when he was widely tipped to land this title. There was never much chance of a repeat once Corretja captured the opening set. In the second semi-final tomorrow, Moyá, seeded No 12, plays Felix Mantilla, another Spaniard, seeded two places lower. Mantilla has won their last two matches.

Gustavo Kuerten was yesterday fined £7,000 by the Grand Slam Committee after his disqualification from the doubles tournament late on Tuesday night. Kuerten flung his racket into the crowd, narrowly missing the head of the umpire, Bruno Rebeuh.

### SEMI-FINALS

C Moyá (Sp) v F Mantilla (Sp)  
C Pioline (Fr) v A Corretja (Sp)

never wavered under the onslaught. The artesian prevailed over the artist by the weight of his consistency.

The contest was a visual feast, pitting Pioline's classic groundstrokes against Arazi's wristy inspiration. The 14,000 crowd at Roland Garros stood firmly behind Pioline but they were often bewitched by the Moroccan's mesmeric touch.

Arazi, who moved to France two years after his birth, often left the advancing Pioline helpless with his repertoire of passing shots. His mood dictated the rhythm of the match but Pioline, unseeded, somehow held out. The difference between them was Pioline's ability to raise his game at crucial moments. He was to reap a rich reward.

Pioline's career record indicates his lack of stamina for regular matchplay. He seized up in Monte Carlo last month, when a tough semi-final left

him bereft of energy and he was duly roasted by Carlos Moyá, his tenth reverse in 12 career finals.

After his defeat of Marat Safin on Monday, Pioline's five-set triumph was his second in succession and his third in this tournament. It is most unlikely that he will

survive the Spanish inquisition, starting with Corretja tomorrow.

Pioline, two weeks short of his 29th birthday, laboured visibly from the start of the fourth set. He was a shade fortunate to take the third, Arazi conjuring two points for it before Pioline sneaked

through on his first in a protracted tie-break.

Arazi then levelled the match at two sets apiece as Pioline, his gait becoming more laboured by the game, abandoned his net-rushing policy through sheer exhaustion. Indeed, he may struggle to recall how he repelled break

## Hingis favoured to check Seles revival

FROM JULIAN MUSCATE

FEW fantasy tennis matches would generate more intrigue than a duel between Martina Hingis and Monica Seles in her prime. Hingis is favoured to reach her sixth successive grand-slam final in the French Open here today, although her dominance of the game has been enhanced by the cruel fates to have beset her opponent.

The teenage Seles was all-dominant at the start of the decade. From 1991, she won seven of the eight grand slams she contested, her only defeat coming at Steffi Graf's hands in the 1992 Wimbledon final. Over that period Seles completely eclipsed Graf, who herself reigned either side of the Seles era. She seemed poised to rewrite all records.

What subsequently happened to Seles has been well documented. She was absent from the game for 20 months after she was robbed in Germany five years ago. Then, as her comeback gained momentum, Seles learnt that her father, Karol, had contracted terminal cancer.

Seles, now 24, may have been stripped of her venom forever. With her best years behind her, her ruthlessness, pounding of the ball may offer

no more than a memory of the teenage sensation. What is clear is that her father's recent passing has released her from a lengthy period of turmoil. It is surely no coincidence that Seles, seeded No 6, posted her first victory over an opponent ranked in the top ten this year when she upset Jana Novotna on Tuesday.

"I think of my dad every day," Seles said in the wake of that victory. "But he believed that whenever I stepped on the court, it was just for me. This is a tennis tournament and I just love to play." Whether she can play well enough to upset Hingis is doubtful. Hingis, seeded No 1, has won all five of their previous encounters, including a narrow verdict in the semi-finals here last year. A similar outcome is on the cards.

In the second semi-final Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, seeded No 4, meets Lindsay Davenport, seeded No 2, who trails 6-2 in previous matches and has never triumphed over the Spaniard on clay.

Sánchez Vicario is a dual winner of this tournament and always seems to play well in Paris. That should be enough to swing the pendulum her way.

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## Managers not managing

**Neville's Island**  
TV, 8.30pm

Tim Firth brings the quirky humour of *The Prestige* to this tale of four businessmen on a team-building weekend who become stranded on an island in the Lake District. There are obvious and acknowledged echoes of *Lord of the Flies*, but the tone is jocular and the reversion to savagery less fearful. It has to be said that the quartet are far too naive about the ways of the world to convince as thrusting middle managers, but once that improbability is accepted the piece works splendidly. Adapted by Firth from his stage play, this television version is smoothly directed and faultlessly cast. Martin Clunes abandons his wretched persona to play a born-again Christian with a love of birds and there are expert performances from David Bamber, Jeff Rawle and Timothy Spall as his incompetent companions.



Timothy Spall, Jeff Rawle, David Bamber, Martin Clunes (TV, 8.30pm)

**All the Right Moves**  
BBC2, 8.30pm

The series on buying and selling houses continues to find entertaining material, though the buyer who has just been assumed might not be so amused. Having given estate agents such a rough time last week, Quentin Willson tries to redress the balance by training as one. His return to the classroom is only for the purposes of the programme, but it does give an insight into the workings of an upmarket company competing for business in one of the hottest parts of London.

Another item highlights the growing number of professional women who are choosing to live on their own. We meet three of them, a personal assistant, a public relations executive and a magazine editor. There is also advice on building your own home instead of buying one. It can be cheaper, but it is very hard work.

being a dustman. The beauty of *Doctors At Large* is that we can immediately flash forward and see how this disillusionment has worked through. Hollings is not, after all, a dustman, but an aspiring consultant specialising in radiology. Exams loom, however, and he is not convinced he has been getting the best training. As for Shephard, all thoughts of consultancy have long since evaporated. He is in a dead-end job, working part-time as a clinical assistant, his marriage has broken up and he is looking for a fresh direction.

**Doctors At Large**  
BBC2, 9.00pm

In the forerunner to this series, filmed in 1991, Doctors John Shephard and Nick Hollings were working 100 hours a week as housemen and hating it. Shephard reflected: "It could have been a wonderful thing to be a doctor but it's not, it's cheaper, but it is very hard work."

**Icecap**  
BBC2, 9.30pm

The final film of a well-researched series opens with the last stirring feat of individual derring-do before the Arctic became the battleground of warring nations. August Courtaud, one of a team of young British explorers from Cambridge, is isolated for 13 weeks on a weather station in the middle of the Greenland ice-cap. When he was finally rescued his first words were: "Have you got any cigars?" We also hear how Hubert Wilkins, an Australian, tried to get to the North Pole in a second-hand submarine he bought from the United States Navy for one dollar. In 1940 the Arctic was drawn into the Second World War, as the island of Spitzbergen was contested by the Germans and the Allies, and after 1945 it became a site of the Cold War.

## RADIO CHOICE

**The Impro Musical**  
Radio 2, 9pm

Regulars at the Donmar Warehouse and other London venues will be familiar with this format, which was first launched six years ago. The idea is that the players perform a musical play inspired entirely by the audience, which offers both a basic theme and the various twists and turns. Sounds risky, is it? As a test of the performers, it is second to none and indeed the technique smacks of the kind of improvisational exercise that RADA students are often required to undertake. The team tonight includes Alan Marriott, the rock singer/drummer recently heard with the Reduced Shakespeare Company, Paul Hewell, Beverley Fox, Ian MacLoughlin and David Webster, who was in *One Word Impro* with Eddie Izzard.

**Whistling in the Wind**  
Radio 4, 11.30pm

The Dutch Pot Club has nothing to do with recreational drugs. For listeners hearing the opening of this programme it soon becomes clear that the breathy repetitive chanting is merely one manifestation of a fascinating and original theatre piece developed by the theatre company Karen Winhurst. She uses a person's voice to unlock his or her mind, and in particular to recall past incidents. The first programme, *Domino Party*, features members of London's West Indian community recalling, at the Dutch Pot Club, their early lives in the Caribbean. The procedure is easier to enjoy than explain: one sequence features a man who recalls one sequence in a woman recalling an incident in Kingston, Jamaica. Peter Barnard

### RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm John Peel 2.00pm Radio 1 News 3.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00pm Dave Pearce. Includes 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30pm The Evening Session 8.30pm Live Music Update with Danny O'Connor 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Jayne Middlemiss 1.00am Olve Warren 4.00am Chris Moyles

### WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 In Sight 7.30 Meridian Books 8.00 News 8.15 Of the Shelf 8.30 Composer of the Month 9.00 News (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 Hot New Country 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Law and the Letter 10.30 News 10.40 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Discovery 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm The Learning World 12.45 From Our Own Correspondent 1.00 News (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Record News 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Afternoon 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Music Tracks 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Westway 4.30 The Vintage Chart Show (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 In Sight 6.30 Record News (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Assignment 8.00 News Summary 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News Hour 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Meridian Books 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 In Sight 1.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm John Peel 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 Westway 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

### RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 David Alan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Impro Musical. A new series. See *Radio Choice* 9.30 The News 10.30 Paul Gambaccini's Inside Track 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05pm Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

### CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 6.00 Henry Kelly. Michael Barry prepares vegetarian lunch. Plus, the Record of the Week and the Hall of Fame 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listener requests of music 2.00pm Concerto. Votti (Mozart Concerto No 23 in G major) 3.00pm Concerto. Includes: Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30pm Newswatch with John Brunning. The latest headlines and sport updates. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classical and contemporary pieces (in a Nutshell). Elgar (Introduction and Allegro for Strings); Tippett (A Child of Our Time) 11.00am Marni at Night. Music through until the early hours with Alan Mann 2.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Marni Greene

### RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00pm Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Gower's Cricket Weekly. Includes a look at the first Test at Edgbaston 8.00 Inside Edge 10.00pm Late Night Live. Presented by Nick Robinson, including the day's sports round-up 12.00am World Tonight 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

### RADIO 3

(Variations Concertantes); Herbert (Hero and Leander) 4.00pm Richard Muzil's Piano, with Piers Lane (1) 4.45 Music Machine. Includes: Music Machine, with Verity Sharp 5.00 In Tune. Sean Rafferty talks to André Previn about conducting and composing your own music 7.30 Performance on 3 (Inventing America). London Symphony Orchestra in a concert given last Sunday at the Barbican Centre in London. Director André Previn, piano, Harolyn Blackwell, soprano. Includes Copland (Appalachian Spring); Prokofiev (Honey and Vocals); Williams Schuman (Symphony No 3) 9.15 Postscript: Sam Sheppard - Live at BBC (4/5) 9.25 Mizi Meyerson. In the first of two short recitals, the American harpichordist Mizi Meyerson plays a selection of delicate and characterful pieces by the 18th-century French composer Jacques Duphy 10.00 Music Restored. A concert given last month in St Mary's Church, Exeter, as part of the Beverley Early Music Festival 10.45 Night Waves, with Paul Allen and guests 11.30 Jazz Notes. Includes: Jazz Notes. Includes: 12.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

### VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ Williams 10.00 Paul Coyte 1.00pm Peter 2.00am Robin Roberts 7.30 Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Corin Jones 5.00 Jimmy Clark

### TALK RADIO

6.30am Krisi Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deeley 7.00 News 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

### RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trelawny. Includes: Beethoven (Overture: Egmont); Britten (Variations for Voce and Piano); Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra; Handel (Zemira mai tu, Xenes); 9.00 Masterworks. Introduced by Peter Hobbday. Includes: Byrd (Psalm and Gulliard No 1 in C minor); Mendelssohn (Symphony No 29 in A, K201); Shostakovich (Pastorale); Parsha's Ana, Mavral; Barik (Hungarian Peasant Song); Schubert (Die Tassenantler); Honegger, D8181; Schubert (An die Luise) 10.30 Artist of the Week: Joshua Bell (Inventing America). Introduced by Joan Bakewell 11.00 Sound Stories. Dances of Death. Richard Baker explores the music of Chopin and Liszt 12.00 Composer of the Week: Puccini 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Toby Spence, tenor, and Roger Wigmore, piano. Includes: The Song of Roland and Strauss and Britten's Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo (1) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras (Inventing America). Includes: Concerto for Kenneth Montgomery, Adrian Lasper and Jacek Kasprzyk; Mark Kaplan, violin, Colin Fleming, flute, MacDowell (Harriet and Ophelia); Menotti (Violin Concerto); Griffes (Poem for flute and orchestra); Gianersa

### RADIO 5

5.00 (FM) P.M. with Clara English and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.54 (LW) Shipping 5.57 Weather 5.57 (FM) Six O'Clock News 6.30 Goodness Goodness Me. The award-winning Asian sketch show. With Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghar, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia 7.00 News. The Archers 7.15 Front Row. Francoise Stock profiles the British artist Lucian Freud 7.45 Postcards: Basic Magic (4/5) (1) 8.00 News: Riccione Assemblies: The Leeds Dripping Plot. Martin Watwright investigates the case in 1985, when a cook was prosecuted for "stealing" a dollop of dripping from her employer. The people of Leeds were outraged and took to the streets (2/3) 8.30 The Week in Westminster. Mary Ann Sieghart, Assistant Editor of *The Times*, takes a look behind the scenes at Westminster 9.00 News: Leading Edge. Geoff Watts looks at the latest in earth science (3/4) 9.30 The Candidate (1) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Guest of the Holy Grail. Read by Sir Derek Jacobi (5/10) 11.00 Late Night on 4: If You're So Smart, Why Aren't You Rich? By Paul Shearer and Richard Allinson 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.30 (FM) Whistling in the Wind: The Domino Party. Recollections from the elderly, dominating members of the Caribbean Dutch Pot Club. See *Choice* 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Even the Angels (4/5) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.30 World News 5.35 Sports Roundup 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Farming Today, with Charlotte Smith

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.0. CLASSIC FM, FM 102.2. TALK RADIO, FM 103.8. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 136 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

**A show**

THE TIMES

9.35 Nightline  
10.00 News  
10.30 Question Time  
11.00 News  
11.30 Weather  
12.00 BBC News 24

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BT

# A show with the makings of a series with legs

Channel 4's latest American comedy import about a young, fantasy-prone female lawyer, Ally McBeal, is embarrassing to watch because it shows once again how slick, clever, and lavish TV produced the best American sitcoms and comedy-dramas can be compared with some recent British rivals. Ally McBeal has Fraser's mix of humour and pathos, but walks the comedy tightrope without the insurance of a laugh track. It wants to say something while making us laugh. In this case it wants to say something about the dilemmas faced by an intelligent, feisty, single, sexy, miniskirted, emotional, career-minded woman who is looking for romance as well as for a challenging job (hey, nobody's suggesting it's a doctoral thesis), but then so did *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* all those years ago. More risky, perhaps, is the deci-

sion to make it a comedy-drama. The risk is that the script can slip into schmaltz. But Ally McBeal manages (mostly, anyway) to retrieve such situations by undercutting them with humour. Ally is played by Calista Flockhart, a wonderfully memorable name for an actress, even if it does sound as if the registrar made a typing error on the birth certificate and her parents decided just to live with it. The novelty gimmick is that when Ally is thinking something, the image often materialises. Hence, when she sighs about her small breasts, they balloon before our eyes until her bra straps pop; when her (now married) ex-boyfriend, for whom she still pines, suggests going for a coffee, we see them cavorting naked in a giant cappuccino; when she is feeling insecure in a meeting with clients, she shrinks to doll-size, her feet dangling over the edge of a huge chair; when her ex-boyfriend,

with whom she unexpectedly finds herself sharing a Boston law practice, says he's glad she joined the firm — not because of their past romance, but because she's a good lawyer — her feelings of rejection manifest themselves in a quiver of arrows whistling into her heart. This Walter Mitty/Billy Liar trick is not original. But it's well done. Even better, it's not overdone.

The character created by the writer David Kelley, who previously brought us *Chicago Hope* and *The Practice*, is both self-confident and insecure, smart enough to get through law school but also emotionally vulnerable enough to be grateful when her ex-boyfriend reassures her that his new wife isn't as perfect as she might look to Ally: "She snores," he tells her, "and her roots aren't quite so blonde." But Ally needs more. "Her little toe? Burial." Ally, purring like a punctured Lilo,



whispers, "Thank you". It is a tribute to Kelley's script and to the quality of the acting that after only one episode we know enough about the characters, and about the bonds between them, to feel as though we've been tuning in for weeks: we already have a sense of the tensions — personal, professional, romantic — that will provide the wellspring for future plots. Flockhart, who was a little-known

classical stage actor before being scooped up by Kelley, manages to swing from wisecracks to romantic turmoil as smoothly as a pendulum, carrying much of the show's success on her shoulders. No surprise, then, that the show won Golden Globes for "Best Comedy" and "Best Actress". It has all the makings of a series with legs: Ally McBeal, preferably.

Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray avoid such emotional turmoil by creating a serene world about them, a world in which the possibilities of failure are shrunk by employing only the best ingredients — hang the cost — and an architect like Richard Rogers (Ruth's hubby) to design their River Café restaurant. The Italian Kitchen (Channel 4) echoes their warning to us in their two River Café Cookbooks not to waste time even thinking of cooking anything unless we are prepared to shell out for the finest oils. 20-year-old

balsamic vinegar, this ricotta, that sea salt, and so on. They are, of course, absolutely right.

But I remember a friend recounting a drunken evening, years ago, which ended up in his ill-stocked bachelor flat. Among the now hungry drinkers was a younger Marco Pierre White who, from dusty packs of pasta, well-aged tomato paste and other dubious food items, concocted an improbably memorable meal. You wonder if this isn't more of a culinary challenge than buying the best ingredients and then tinkering with them as little as possible. I suspect most of us meander down a culinary path somewhere between these two extremes.

In last night's opening episode, Rogers and Gray cooked several delicious-sounding and pretty straightforward pasta dishes, although next week they are moving on to more complex and extravagant fish recipes, a bit like drug-pushers hoping to get you comfortable with dope before moving on to the hard stuff.

Lord only knows what kind of stuff Des O'Connor is on. Why does he laugh like a hyena all the time? For Des O'Connor's World Cup Party (ITV) last night, he persuaded Tony Blair to come and tell jokes about his mother-in-law, about the time he had to cut off a mobile call from the Queen, about how he plays football with "the kids". If this were Ally McBeal, an image would show Blair deciding with Alastair Campbell which stories would best win over an ITV audience. As for the World Cup, Tony said he empathised with the tough decisions Glenn Hoddle had to make as England coach. But whose face would we have seen in Blair's Ally McBeal imagination when he was saying this: Gazza's or Harriet Harman's?

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (86297)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (132487)
- 9.00 A Date with Fate (1354742)
- 9.20 Kilroy (1243758)
- 10.00 The General (27013)
- 10.30 Beautiful Things Raku firing and ash glazing (8125623)
- 10.40 News (1) (8903891)
- 10.50 International Cricket: First Test — England v South Africa Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the opening day's play in the first Test at Edgbaston. Commentary and analysis comes from Barry Richards, Richie Benaud, David Gower and Chris Broad (17871181)
- 1.00pm News (1) and weather (89346)
- 1.30 Regional News (97781617)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (76845433)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (14366471)
- 2.10 Through the Keyhole (7262177)
- 2.40 International Cricket: First Test — England v South Africa Tony Lewis introduces further coverage. Continued on BBC2 at 3.30 (6237891)
- 3.30 Playdays (1) (8765433) 3.50 The Littlest Pet Shop (8681549) 4.00 Flavel's American Tails (1) (5317704) 4.20 Mr Wym (1) (2452297) 4.40 Goosebumps (1) (6573015) 5.00 Newsworld (1) (767821) 5.10 No Sweat. Last in series (1) (6750629)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (287758)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (891)
- 6.30 Regional News (471)
- 7.00 Watchdog: The Big Dinner Johnathan Maitland investigates food issues. Does restaurant critics' cooking match up to their own exciting standards? Plus: synthetic foodstuffs; and a call for easy-opening packaging (1) (6722)
- 7.30 EastEnders Peggy ensures Frank gets the hero's welcome he deserves (1) (655)
- 8.00 Crime Beat A report on how greater security in our cities has driven many criminals into the countryside (1) (6471)
- 8.30 Keeping Mum: The Surprise Peggy aims to surprise Richard with a secret birthday bash (1) (1278)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (4100)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Cardigan Deborah's new student boyfriend makes Gary feel a little low in the tooth and turns Tony green with envy (1) (1) (69636)
- 10.00 The Ben Elton Show Last in series (21988)
- 10.30 Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy dialogues and sketches from Mel and Gill (1) (1) (30836)
- 11.00 Question Time: Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, take part in a debate hosted by David Dimbleby in London (271549)
- 12.05am The Go-Between (1970) with Julie Christie, Alan Bates, Dominic Guard and Edward Fox. A boy becomes tragically involved in a forbidden affair between a farmer and an aristocratic girl. Directed by Joseph Losey (from a script by Harold Pinter) (1) (26834)
- 1.55 Weather (1) (190747)
- 2.00 BBC News 24

- 6.10am Zimbabwe: Health for All? (725133) 6.35 Who Cais the Shots? (2204452)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (2388297) 7.25 The Flintstone Comedy Show (2367704) 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (1) (2098365) 8.15 Funky Phantom (7664029) 8.35 Hairy Jerry (1) (7947839) 8.45 The Record (4640704)
- 9.10 Go for It (4687839)
- 9.25 Job Bank (4759345) 9.35 Job Bank (8424704) 9.45 Come Outside (8444568) 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (25665) 10.30 Storyline (7220097) 10.45 Teaching Today (762339) 11.15 20/20 (1742297) 11.35 Techno (198029) 11.55 Lifestyles (1) (6521984)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (70742) 1.00 The Family Ness (1) (2590520) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (1) (2590581) 1.10 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (1) (39809617)
- 1.35 Cricket: First Test England v South Africa from Edgbaston (8061094)
- 2.40 News (1) (7595094) 2.45 Westminster (1118029) 3.25 News (1) (9475471)
- 3.30 Cricket: First Test Tony Lewis introduces further coverage from Edgbaston (20467029)
- 6.25 Star Trek Voyager (1) (1) (30297)
- 7.10 Ren and Stimpy (1) (1) (68739)
- 7.30 Out and About Summer days out in Cambridgeshire (297) WALES: Wilderness Walks
- 8.00 Wilderness Walks Cameron McNeish takes across the Scottish Highlands (1) (3013)

- 6.00am GMTV (2944810)
- 9.25 This Morning (1) (4755520)
- 9.30 Vanessa (1) (1226568)
- 10.10 This Morning (1) (3828162)
- 12.15pm Regional News (1487907)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (74568)
- 1.00 Shortland Street (57742) 1.30 Home and Away (1) (73839) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4036549) 2.45 Wally (1) (387520)
- 3.15 News (1) (9473013)
- 3.20 Regional News (1) (9470926)
- 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (8460549) 3.35 The Slow Morns (1) (8315452) 3.45 Spooky and Co (1) (1) (6067636) 4.10 Brand Spanking New Dots (1) (3751907) 4.40 The Word (1) (1) (6170568)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (3410013)
- 5.40 News (1) and weather (536100)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (7) (569025)
- 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (677723)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (317377)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (839)

- As HTV West except:
- 1.00pm A Country Practice (57742)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5900100)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (3410013)
- 6.25 Central News (464520)
- 6.55-7.00 Lifetime (400617)
- 10.00 Detective Stories (441723)
- 11.40 Drama and Greg (37742)
- 12.00am Friday Night Fever (6820306)
- 1.25 Not Fade Away (1673968)
- 2.25 Planet Rock Profiles (2589582)
- 2.55 Box Office America (2368722)
- 3.20 We Can Work It Out (57158414)
- 3.45 Best of British Motor Sport (86507766)
- 4.10 Central Jobfinder '98 (8999921)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (6200766)

- As HTV West except:
- 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (7053164)
- 1.00 Emmerdale (57742)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5900100)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3410013)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (54587)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (305386)
- 10.45 Absolutely Loaded (565471)
- 11.15 Pulling Power (562384)
- 11.45 Street Legal (758810)

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- 8.30 Keeping Mum: The Surprise Peggy aims to surprise Richard with a secret birthday bash (1) (1278)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (4100)
- 9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Cardigan Deborah's new student boyfriend makes Gary feel a little low in the tooth and turns Tony green with envy (1) (1) (69636)
- 10.00 The Ben Elton Show Last in series (21988)
- 10.30 Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy dialogues and sketches from Mel and Gill (1) (1) (30836)
- 11.00 Question Time: Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, take part in a debate hosted by David Dimbleby in London (271549)
- 12.05am The Go-Between (1970) with Julie Christie, Alan Bates, Dominic Guard and Edward Fox. A boy becomes tragically involved in a forbidden affair between a farmer and an aristocratic girl. Directed by Joseph Losey (from a script by Harold Pinter) (1) (26834)
- 1.55 Weather (1) (190747)
- 2.00 BBC News 24

- 6.10am Zimbabwe: Health for All? (725133) 6.35 Who Cais the Shots? (2204452)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (2388297) 7.25 The Flintstone Comedy Show (2367704) 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (1) (2098365) 8.15 Funky Phantom (7664029) 8.35 Hairy Jerry (1) (7947839) 8.45 The Record (4640704)
- 9.10 Go for It (4687839)
- 9.25 Job Bank (4759345) 9.35 Job Bank (8424704) 9.45 Come Outside (8444568) 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (25665) 10.30 Storyline (7220097) 10.45 Teaching Today (762339) 11.15 20/20 (1742297) 11.35 Techno (198029) 11.55 Lifestyles (1) (6521984)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (70742) 1.00 The Family Ness (1) (2590520) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (1) (2590581) 1.10 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (1) (39809617)
- 1.35 Cricket: First Test England v South Africa from Edgbaston (8061094)
- 2.40 News (1) (7595094) 2.45 Westminster (1118029) 3.25 News (1) (9475471)
- 3.30 Cricket: First Test Tony Lewis introduces further coverage from Edgbaston (20467029)
- 6.25 Star Trek Voyager (1) (1) (30297)
- 7.10 Ren and Stimpy (1) (1) (68739)
- 7.30 Out and About Summer days out in Cambridgeshire (297) WALES: Wilderness Walks
- 8.00 Wilderness Walks Cameron McNeish takes across the Scottish Highlands (1) (3013)

- 6.00am GMTV (2944810)
- 9.25 This Morning (1) (4755520)
- 9.30 Vanessa (1) (1226568)
- 10.10 This Morning (1) (3828162)
- 12.15pm Regional News (1487907)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (74568)
- 1.00 Shortland Street (57742) 1.30 Home and Away (1) (73839) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4036549) 2.45 Wally (1) (387520)
- 3.15 News (1) (9473013)
- 3.20 Regional News (1) (9470926)
- 3.25 Potamus Park (1) (8460549) 3.35 The Slow Morns (1) (8315452) 3.45 Spooky and Co (1) (1) (6067636) 4.10 Brand Spanking New Dots (1) (3751907) 4.40 The Word (1) (1) (6170568)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (3410013)
- 5.40 News (1) and weather (536100)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (7) (569025)
- 6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (677723)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (317377)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (839)

- As HTV West except:
- 12.27pm-12.30 Illuminations (7053164)
- 1.00 Emmerdale (57742)
- 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5900100)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (3410013)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (54587)
- 10.30 Westcountry News (305386)
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Pioline maintains French connection at Roland Garros



## GOLF 48

Teenage kicks for Garcia at Amateur Championship

Stewart hopes seam bowlers will inspire new England charges

# Cork's return can swing Test balance

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE one thing it has been possible to predict with confidence about recent Test matches at Edgbaston is that a draw is the least likely result. The same will apply this morning, when England and South Africa will begin the five-match Cornhill series on a pitch that is soft, damp and inevitably bowler-friendly.

past few days has frustrated him. Although the square was deliberately flooded three weeks ago to guard against a parched and breaking surface, the intention to produce a dry pitch of even pace and bounce was on course as recently as last weekend. However, tor-

rential rain on Monday night and Tuesday, followed by showers yesterday, have made it impossible to complete the drying process. Instinctively, England will want to put South Africa in, not only to exploit any early help themselves but also to prevent Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock — both of whom know the ground from experience with Warwickshire — capitalising upon it. They cannot be sure, though, that there will be any advantage to batting last, by which time any unevenness, to which Edgbaston is prone, will be at its most pronounced.



Cronje, the S Africa captain, has much on his mind

Alec Stewart, therefore, will start his career as England captain with a tricky and potentially crucial decision. Provided that conditions remain unchanged — and with the covers on for much of yesterday this seems probable — he will bowl first, by choice, but it will be a hunch rather than a conviction. Even the Warwickshire players to whom the ground is home find the pitches impossible to prejudge and this one is particularly difficult. Steve Rouse, a groundsman for whom every Test match must now seem a personal trial, has done an admirable job with the surface, but the rain of the

## Hollooake must wait on captaincy decision

ADAM HOLLOOAKE, who had been expecting to learn this week if his term as captain of England's one-day side is to be extended, must now wait another two months for the decision after a radical shift in thinking by the selectors (Alan Lee writes). Hollooake's position was questioned after defeats in series against West Indies and South Africa. The appointment of Alec Stewart, a fixture in the one-day side, as Test captain increased the prospect of a return to one man in charge of both teams.

Initially, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, indicated that a decision on Hollooake's future would be made before the start of the Test series, but the position has now altered. "We have decided to see how things go in the Tests," Graveney said yesterday. "There is no need to rush a decision and I have explained our thinking to Adam. It is a change of heart but we think it is for the best." The captain will now be named shortly before the triangular one-day series in August.



Stewart has made a point of speaking to every player coming under his wing today

Stewart is likely to look busier and sound noisier than before, but his mission is to make them play to their optimum more frequently. "Every individual in the side believes we can beat South Africa," he said, "but we are all aware that our recent record in five-Test series needs some work on it."

The new captain was upbeat yesterday, as one would expect of anyone in his position, let alone a natural optimist who has come to the job at an age when many are thinking of retirement. "I'm sure there will be a few more butterflies than normal," he said. "It's only right that there should be."

An England team under

### DETAILS

ENGLAND (from M A Atherton (Leeds), M A Butcher (Surrey), N Hussain (Essex), J A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Leeds), M R Ramprakash (Middlesex), D G Cook (Derby), M A Eatham (Kent), R D Croul (Gloucestershire), D Gough (Yorkshire), A R C Fraser (Middlesex), D W Headley (Ireland), SOUTH AFRICA (from G J Laker (Essex), G Kirsten, J H Kallis, W J Cronje, D J Onions, J N Rhodes, I M Ntshonke, S M Pollock, L Kuznetsov, A A Donald, P Adams, B M McMillan, L Napier, R B Tait (Leeds) and D Shepherd (Essex)), TV Umpire: J Hampshire (Essex) MATCH REFEREE: J Burns (Ipswich)

who moves back up to No 3. South Africa, who have only played three previous Tests at Edgbaston, have settled on their top six. Jonty Rhodes's form securing the No 6 position, but there may yet be room for Brian McMillan. The third of the South Africans to have played for Warwickshire, McMillan is competing for the last place with Lance Klusener.

The bookmakers have decided that the draw is favourite, but would-be spectators are not so sure. The first three days will be played to near capacity crowds, but advance sales for Sunday are predictably slow.

Donald homes in, page 46 County reports, pages 46-47

# Numbers game adds up for McManaman

By Matt Dickinson

SUCH is the cloak-and-dagger style with which Glenn Hoddle operates that the slightest hint is loaded with significance. So it was yesterday when the England coach allotted the shirt numbers for his World Cup squad, thereby provoking another frenzy of debate about his likely starting XI this summer.

What is in a number? Quite a lot, Steve McManaman will be hoping after he was handed the No 11 jersey for France, encouraging speculation that he will be taking over Paul Gascoigne's central midfield role. Certainly, the first 11 names listed read like a probable starting team when England face Tunisia in Marselles on June 15. From David Seaman (No 1) through to Tony Adams (No 5), Paul Ince (No 4) and Alan Shearer (No 9), the list runs through the spine of Hoddle's side, with McManaman the intriguing twist in an otherwise predictable roll-call.

Other alternatives for Gascoigne's position have been left lower down the list, with Darren Anderton at No 14, Paul Merson down at No 15 and Paul Scholes one place lower.

David Beckham has been given the No 7 shirt — not the No 10 which has been his favourite since he watched Hoddle strut around in it for Tottenham Hotspur — and may fill the central role. Others believe, however, that he could be limited to the position wide on the right that he fills for Manchester United, and that was a prospect encouraged by Hoddle's allocation — if, indeed, anything is to be made of it at all.

England managers have traditionally given huge hints

about the likely role of players that they are taking to tournaments when the lists were made public. Terry Venables stuck to that pattern in Euro '96. Of the players numbered 1 to 11 in the squad, only David Platt (No 7) was not one of Venables's first-choice team, as McManaman, then No 17, came into the side.

The confirmation of the squads allowed 704 footballers to breathe easier and look forward to the tournament, which kicks off next Wednesday when Brazil face Sweden at the Stade de France.

Of that number, some 73 spread among 15 nations come from the English leagues, with more than 20 per cent of the performers plying their trade in two nations — England and Italy. Chelsea provide nine players alone, while half of Norway's squad of 22 play with English teams.

England is one of only five countries — Japan, Spain, Saudi Arabia and Mexico are the others — with every player from a domestic club, while Nigeria are at the opposite end, with all their squad playing abroad.

In what is sure to be a summer for football statisticians as well as fans, English "analysts" will be glad to hear that Michael Owen is the only player in the tournament with a shirt number (20) bigger than his age (18). Whether this means that he will be in France simply as Teddy Sheringham's understudy is something only Hoddle knows. And one can be certain that he will not be telling anyone — possibly not even the player — until lunchtime on June 15.

Full squads, page 49

### HOW ENGLAND WILL LINE UP

- 1 D Seaman Arsenal
- 2 S Campbell Tottenham
- 3 G Le Saux Chelsea
- 4 P Ince Liverpool
- 5 T Adams Arsenal
- 6 G Southgate Aston Villa
- 7 D Beckham Manchester Utd
- 8 D Batty Newcastle Utd
- 9 A Shearer Newcastle Utd
- 10 E Sheringham Manchester Utd
- 11 S McManaman Liverpool
- 12 G Neville Manchester Utd
- 13 N Martin Leeds Utd
- 14 D Anderton Tottenham
- 15 P Merson Middlesbrough
- 16 P Scholes Manchester Utd
- 17 L Lee Newcastle Utd
- 18 M Keown Arsenal
- 19 L Ferdinand Tottenham
- 20 M Owen Liverpool
- 21 R Ferdinand West Ham Utd
- 22 T Flowers Blackburn R



No 9 dream: Shearer will have a familiar look

**TIMES TWO CROSSWORD**

No 1423

ACROSS

- Silent waterbird (4,4)
- Food in shell: crazy (4)
- One calved from eg. Antarctic (7)
- River mammal (5)
- A fish: singe (4)
- More strong and healthy (7)
- Send to custody before trial (6)
- Correct (MS) again (6)
- School bag (7)
- Agitate (4)
- Of less importance (5)
- Deathly drinks (7)
- Protest march (4)
- Lets go (8)

DOWN

- To cripple (4)
- Parts of body: of gear wheel (5)
- (Eg candle) fat: noisier (anag.) (7)
- SW African country (6)
- Never tested: still on 14? (7)
- Women's club (esp. US) (8)
- Throw up (join, pancake) (4)
- Took for granted: took liberties (8)
- Part for whole, as rod for angler (7)
- (Bath) attached to bedroom (2,5)
- (Time) pass (6)
- Five-year-old male deer (4)
- Presses fetters (5)
- Wife/sister of Ostris (4)

# Tradition loses in numbers game

Mark Souster on the new union rule that clubs must follow to the letter

Nothing it would appear, is sacred in rugby union's new world, least of all tradition. From next season the 26 clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership are expected to fall into line and ensure that their team jerseys are numbered from 1 to 15, with replacements 16 to 22. No more letters or random squad numbers, no more quirks or superstitions in numbering that have their roots deep in history.

executive expressed his disappointment and said that the club would challenge the decision taken last week by the board of English Rugby Partnership (ERP). "We will be seeking dispensation and if that is not successful, then we will take every opportunity permitted to revert to the lettered shirts," Wheeler said. Bristol have long resisted calls to change. Indeed, a Rugby Football Union circular in 1962 that recommended numbers as standard practice was ignored by Bristol on the grounds that, as they did not use figures, it did not apply to them.

numbers in the professional era, will also have to fall into line, along with Richmond and Bath, neither of whom play with a No 13 in their ranks. Richmond purely because of superstition and Bath, legend has it, out of respect for one of their centres who was killed during a game. A spokesman said: "You'll never get Jerry Guscott to wear a No 13."



West Harlepool did not include a No 5 in their line-up for five years after the death of John Howe, the lock forward, in 1992. They resumed only last season, by which time all of Howe's contemporaries had retired. Doug Ash, the chief executive of ERP, accepts that feathers will be ruffled and will listen to "genuine grievances". Ash added: "But we are looking for consistency in the top two divisions for both spectators and the television viewer. It should make things easier to understand for people new to the sport."

It was not until after the First World War, when the role of individual players became more clearly defined, that teams that had previously worn blank shirts began to sport letters to help with identification. Even then it was restricted to the forwards; backs were included by the early 1930s. By the end of the Second World War, letters had largely been replaced by numbers, although the likes of Leicester and Bristol, until now, steadfastly maintained the old tradition.

Diprose's lead, page 49

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